

2011 GIANT STEPS TARRAFORD VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

Review Summary



94 pts “Bright yellow-green; distinguished by its finely detailed structure and length, the fruit expression restrained but unequivocally varietal. Oak has its place in all three '11 Giant Steps Chardonnays, contributing more to texture than structure.”

James Halliday
2014 Australian Wine Companion

93 pts “A bright, fresh, fruit-driven Chardonnay, stone-fruit scented – oak barely perceptible. Delicate, tight, restrained and fresh in the mouth. A superb wine, taut and jumpy, lively and balanced. It should fill out with more age.”

Huon Hooke, Australian Gourmet Traveller
February/March 2013

92 pts “Despite its modest reported alcohol level, this is a plush, rounded example of Chardonnay, loaded with fruit. A whiff of woodsmoke frames pineapple and mango, adding complexity while still allowing the tropical notes to shine through.”

Joe Czerwinski, Wine Enthusiast
March 2015

92 pts “Green-tinged yellow. Pear, candied ginger, licorice and lemon zest on the perfumed, high-pitched nose. Intensely spicy and focused on the palate, offering an array of orchard and citrus fruit flavors that show very good depth. The ginger and licorice notes linger on a long, smoky and refreshingly tangy finish.”

Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar
July/August 2012

91 pts “Feels light and exuberant, then gets serious, with spicy, savory notes weaving through the pear and passion fruit flavors, lingering gracefully.”

Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator
July 31, 2013



90+ pts “The 2011 Tarraford Vineyard Chardonnay is scented of orange blossom, pineapple and passion fruit with underlying suggestions of baker’s yeast, butterscotch and a pleasant lift of lemon zest. Light to medium-bodied, it is well poised in the mouth with a touch of creamy texture and refreshing acidity supporting the citrus and tropical flavors, finishing long. Drink this one now to 2016.”

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Robert Parker’s The Wine Advocate
June 2012

Excellent – Exceptional “Interesting to see all the single vineyard Giant Steps Chardonnays released at the same price point this year. It makes sense to the extent that I don’t think there is a great deal of difference quality-wise between the wines – it’s more a matter of stylistic preference (although I’m going to give them different ratings, just cos...). So, the Tarraford. Always my favorite of the bunch. Structured, coiled, more linear and more likely to improve with time. It smells of citrus, sourdough and a fair amount of gingery spice. I almost always get an orange tinged character from this vineyard and this time around it presents as spiced orange rind and suggestions of orange oil. Makes it all exotic-like and comely. The most persistent of the trio.”

Jeremy Pringle, Wine Will Eat Itself
August 2012

“Cork dorks often think the Tarraford is a touch better than the Sexton, however the 2011 vintage probably has the Sexton just edging out the Tarraford. Although still very stylish, there is lots of white stone fruit, toasty yet with lemon and grapefruit, and a touch of what can only be described as burnt match, on both the nose and the tongue. I’d probably lay my hard-earned out on the Sexton, though, on the 2011 vintages.”

BJ Foley, Townsville Bulletin
October 2012

“The purity of fruit is what first grabbed me about this wine: stone peach, lines, grapefruit. There are flowers and brioche, too, but what makes the wheels on this bus really go ‘round and ‘round is the minerality, which is clearly in the driver’s seat. It finishes with elegance, a restrained texture and a kiss of cream.”

Joe Roberts, Iwinedude.com
June 14, 2012