GIANT STEPS VIGNERONS

YARRA VALLEY AUSTRALIA







2012 GIANT STEPS SEXTON VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER: Phil Sexton & Steve Flamsteed

REGION: Yarra Valley, Victoria

V A R I E T A L S: Chardonnay (Clones: Mendoza, 96, 76, 85, 78 & 227)

MATURATION: 9 months in 100% French oak (20% new)

ANALYSIS: 13.0% alc/vol | TA: 6.8 | pH: 3.25

VINEYARD:

Planted in 1997, Sexton Vineyard is a beautiful 75-acre, north facing hillside site located in the foothills of the Warramate ranges, rising from 425 to nearly 700 feet above the valley floor. Being well up the slopes, topsoil is thin and root systems have established themselves in shallow gravelly loams above a tough rocky clay base. Vigour and bunch yields set naturally low in this environment, facilitating a low intervention approach to what is otherwise hand tended organic and biodynamic viticulture.

WINEMAKING:

The fruit was hand picked and bunch pressed to tank. Juice transferred to barrel after eight hours settling. 100% indigenous fermentation, in barrel at 18 - 24°C. Lees stirred weekly, then monthly between May and August. No malolactic fermentation. Transferred by gravity to tank with lees in December, for six months elevage in stainless steel. Unfiltered and unfined, no additions apart from minimal sulfur at bottling.

TASTING NOTES:

The nose offers aromas of fresh cream, white peaches, river stones, spearmint, curry leaf, and muesli. The palate is long and lush with beautiful chalkiness. Alongside a backbone of crisp and punchy acidity are notes of Granny Smith apple skins, green mango, and shortbread.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 96 pts Australian Wine Companion, 93 pts International Wine Cellar, 92+ pts The Wine Advocate, 92 pts Wine Spectator, 92 pts Wine Enthusiast

ABOUT GIANT STEPS:

Established in 1998, Giant Steps explores the relationship between vineyard site, the Yarra Valley's cool climate, and different grape clones, to finely fingerprint the personality and character of each vineyard. The Sexton Vineyard, at the heart of the property, is a beautiful 75-acre, north facing hillside site located in the foothills of the Warramate ranges, rising from 425 to nearly 700 feet above the valley floor. A relatively cool site, management of this vineyard is intensive with all tasks, from pruning to harvesting, carefully done by hand.







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