

2012 GIANT STEPS SEXTON VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

Review Summary



96 pts – Best of Chardonnay 2015 “Light straw-green; has considerable attitude, with elements of grapefruit and a touch of Burgundian funk driving the palate through to a long, lingering and satisfying finish.”

James Halliday, Australian Wine Companion
2015

94 pts “This demanding exposed vineyard can produce wines of exceptional quality in great years such as 2012. It has been minimally handled, with no malolactic fermentation, fining or filtering. As a result, there are a lot of interesting things happening, with the mineral edge a striking feature and strong primary fruit character.”

Ray Jordan, The Weekend West
September 2013

94 pts “All of these 2012 Giant Steps Chardonnays are far from sterile or safe. There’s ample character, significant lees work and lots of spice in every one of them. The Sexton this year seems to be a bit more cerebral than previous releases. Savory smoky, struck match characters are front and centre but the primary fruit handles those sulphide-like features with aplomb. White stonefruits, apricot, lime and hard cheese all play a role with lemon curd and a fine but driving grapefruit spine providing the foundation. Oatmeal and brazil nuts become more apparent as it opens up. Extremely complex and a little unexpected...but in a delightful way.”

Jeremy Pringle, WineWillEatItself.com
September 2013

93 pts “Greenish yellow. An exotically perfumed bouquet displays scents of poached pear, peach nectar, tangerine and candied ginger, with an iodine-y quality building in the glass. Sappy, penetrating and pure, showing very good depth to its intense orchard and citrus fruit flavors. Really clings on the incisive finish, leaving smoky lees and mineral notes behind.”

Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar
July/August 2014



93 pts “Dusty, savory, earthy, subdued aromas. Slightly mineral with a multiplicity of aromas which are subtle, with none dominating. There’s a lick of spice from oak, but it’s quite delicate. The palate is intensely flavored and has some weight, and grip, and the finish lingers well. It’s dry and firm, taut and almost a tad austere. But not! Lovely balance and charm. A very good wine.”

Huon Hooke, HuonHooke.com
September 2013

92+ pts “The 2012 Sexton Vineyard Chardonnay has notes of ripe apricots, honeydew melon and guava with hints of cashews, meal and allspice. Light to medium-bodied, there is a pleasant suggestion of silkiness to the texture along with racy acid and some mineral layers in the long finish.”

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Robert Parker’s The Wine Advocate
August 2013

92 pts “The centerpiece of Phil Sexton’s current venture (he previously founded and sold both a brewery and a winery) is this single vineyard, from which he makes a Pinot Noir and this wine. The 2012 Chard is a bold yet elegant wine, filled with grilled pineapple and citrus fruit and framed by hints of toasted nuts, vanilla and graphite.”

Joe Czerwinski, Wine Enthusiast
June 2015

92 pts “Crisp, vibrant and expressive, layered with nectarine, grapefruit and white pepper flavors, finishing with intensity, length and deft balance.”

Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator Insider
February 26, 2014

90 pts “The richest of the three Giant Steps chardonnays from 2012, Sexton grows at a vineyard neighboring Yarra Yering and Coldstream Hills. It’s more about the roundness of texture than flavor depth at the moment. If you open it now, the light notes of ripe grapes and toasted grain will meld with roast fish in a cream sauce.”

Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits
February 2014



100 Best Australian Wines 2014/15 “The 2012 vintage is a cracker across Australia and in the Yarra the Chardonnays and Pinots have a vibrancy and panache which makes them easy to fall for. There are no less than six wines in the Giant Steps portfolio which are worthy of comment. 2012 Giant Steps Sexton, Gladysdale and Applejack Pinot Noirs are all fascinating. Foresty, mineral, stemmy, perfumed and exotic – there is all manner of complexity and excitement on offer in this trio. 2012 Giant Steps Tarraford and Arthur’s Creek Chardonnays are equally interesting. Wraith-like and elaborate, with layered oak, nougat and meadow flower notes these are delicious wines, too. This is a large portfolio where every wine offers something different and fascinating, but my pick of the range this year is the 2012 Sexton Chardonnay which celebrates the fuller figure. I love wines with both poise and generosity. There is an exoticism and breadth to this succulent wine which embraces the senses head on. The acidity and grip on the back palate suggest good ageing potential and while it’s tempting to dive into Sexton now, another year will make it even more elementally appealing.”

**Matthew Jukes, MathewJukes.com
June 2014**