

GIANT STEPS

VIGNERONS

YARRA VALLEY AUSTRALIA



2014 GIANT STEPS SEXTON VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER : Phil Sexton & Steve Flamsteed
REGION : Yarra Valley, Victoria
VARIETALS : Chardonnay (Clones: Mendoza, 96, 76, 85, 78 & 227)
MATURATION : 9 months in 100% French oak (20% new)
ANALYSIS : 13.5% alc/vol | TA: 6.24 | pH: 3.24

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. Vigor 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 65 - 75°F. Time in oak - 9 months. Lees stirred twice only, between May and August. No malolactic fermentation. Transferred to tank in January for a light chill and coarse filtration before bottling.

TASTING NOTES :

The nose offers aromas of grapefruit, dried apple, blanched almonds and struck flint mineral notes. The palate is long and lush with beautiful creaminess. Alongside a backbone of crisp and punchy acidity are notes of Granny Smith apple skins, stonefruits, citrus and shortbread. A luscious and complex wine from an excellent, low yielding vintage.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM : 96 pts James Halliday's Australian Wine Companion, 92 pts Wine & Spirits, 92 pts Vinous, 89 pts Wine Spectator

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. Grapes are biodynamically farmed and drawn from both estate and leased vineyards as well as grapes from long-term contracted growers, supported by strong relationships and meticulous supervision throughout the year. Giant Steps wines are produced fastidiously in the vineyard and vinified with minimal intervention so that each wine is a faithful expression of site, vintage and culture.



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