

2018 GIANT STEPS

YARRA VALLEY CHARDONNAY



WINEMAKER: Phil Sexton & Steve Flamsteed
REGION: Yarra Valley, Victoria
VARIETALS: Chardonnay
MATURATION: 7 months in French oak (10% new)
ANALYSIS: 13.0% alc/vol | TA: 7.20 | pH: 3.25

VINTAGE: The 2018 growing season was warmer, faster (four weeks as opposed to six weeks to pick all the Chardonnay) and earlier than 2017. The decision was made to pick at lower sugar levels to retain the fresh natural acidity in the Chardonnay grapes. The resulting wine has lower alcohol but similar acid levels to the 2017. A beautiful drink now, but a wine that will improve with a little cellaring.

WINEMAKING: The fruit was 100% hand-picked from Giant Steps' Sexton, Applejack, Gruyere Farm, Wombat Creek and Tarraford vineyards. The grapes were whole bunch pressed then indigenous fermentation took place in 500L French oak puncheons at 60 - 74°F. The total time in oak was seven months and there was no lees stirring. 10% of the puncheons underwent spontaneous malolactic fermentation. The wine was not filtered prior to being bottled by gravity.

TASTING NOTES: Aromas of citrus, fresh melon and crushed hazelnuts with mineral undertones. The palate is long, elegant and broad with a beautiful creaminess from the extended aging on its lees. A backbone of crisp and punchy acidity carries flavors of stone fruits, citrus and shortbread through a persistent finish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: Not yet reviewed. 2017 vintage: 94 pts JamesSuckling.com, 93 pts Wine & Spirits, 92 pts Wine Spectator

ABOUT GIANT STEPS: Established in 1998, Giant Steps is owned by Phil Sexton and takes its name from John Coltrane's eponymous first solo jazz album. Giant Steps' fruit is biodynamically farmed and vinified with minimal intervention in its gravity flow winery. The Yarra Valley range is highly expressive, true to the climate, soil and topography of this region. The Single Vineyard range is crafted from the most site-expressive fruit off the best vineyards in great years. Giant Steps has forged a reputation for delivering some of Australia's most consistent, over-performing, varietal wines reflected by its ongoing, enviable global acclaim including Wine & Spirits Top 100 Wineries of the Year, 2013-2018.

