

2016 GIANT STEPS

TARRAFORD VINEYARD CHARDONNAY



WINEMAKER: Phil Sexton & Steve Flamsteed
REGION: Tarrawarra - Yarra Valley, Victoria
VARIETALS: Chardonnay (Clones: Mendoza/96/277)
MATURATION: 10 months in French oak (20% new)
ANALYSIS: 13.5% alc/vol | TA: 6.56 | pH: 3.26

VINEYARD: Located on 21 acres in a protected valley, and established in 1988, Tarraford Vineyard has a discreet microclimate which is cooler than neighboring sites. Its diverse aspects (north, south and east facing slopes) and rocky clay loam soils provide multifaceted winemaking opportunities. Giant Steps is committed to exploring biodynamics with the overall aim of further developing the personality of the site.

WINEMAKING: There is minimal intervention in the vineyard and the grapes are 100% hand-picked. After the grapes are pressed the juice is fermented with indigenous yeast in 500L French oak puncheons. Batonage takes place for the first two months, then the barrels are just topped. The wine matures for 10 months in French oak puncheons (20% new). The wine does not go through malolactic fermentation and is not filtered before being bottled by gravity.

TASTING NOTES: The intense citrus and yellow fruit aromas are supported by savory herbs and subtle toast notes. The palate is layered and shows impressive tension that is reflective of the low yielding vines. It is well poised with a creamy texture and refreshing acidity supporting the citrus and tropical flavors, finishing long.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 92 pts/Editors' Choice Wine Enthusiast, 91 pts Robert Parker Wine Advocate

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.

