

STONIER TASTING NOTES

Stonier Estate Chardonnay 2020

- Pale, bright yellow – with a youthful glint of green at the edges.
- The nose is powerful – with white peach and nectarines leading the charge – quality French oak firmly in the frame – with a powerful lemon essence tone underwriting it.
- The texture of this release screams of barrel fermentation and malolactic fermentation – it’s round and slippery when sipped – allowing its stone fruit core to taper into its lemony acid finish. A lot of winemaking on show here.
- A wine that speaks with the accent of the region – bright acidity from a cooler vintage affording it subtlety and medium-term potential.
- A classic expression of the variety and an excellent value proposition.

Stonier Reserve Chardonnay 2020

- Instantly an impressive wine in the glass – straw yellow from centre to rim – paler than the Estate release.
- First whiff reveals lovely French oak – with citrus, rather than stone-fruits – and a seductive, lees-driven minerality and saline character. Classy.
- So much to like about this wine.
- Purity of fruit allowed to shine – the soft hand of the winemaker to be applauded.
- Crisp acidity provides the spine – while a swirl of minerals and lemon sherbet and sea-spray affords the wine its flesh – more umami than sweet.
- It’s a terrific drink – and more than worthy of its Reserve status.

Stonier KBS Vineyard Chardonnay 2019

- Still very spritely and young in the glass – straw yellow from centre to rim.
- A swirl of oak derived vanilla leads the nose – ahead of grapefruit and white nectarine. It’s complex, without the obvious artifice of the winemaker at play.
- This fruit is pristine and intense at the same time – the coolness of the site captured in the acid line – the richness of the wine expressed in mid palate sweetness which is not remotely cloying – rather a source of charm and comfort.
- The finish is clean with a herbal, almost spicy edge – bitter lemon, thyme, and nettle – demanding the next sip.
- A clear expression of a special block of Chardonnay.

Stonier Estate Pinot Noir 2020

- Translucent brick red – classically varietal hue.
- A nose brimming with spice – cloves, and star anise – whole bunch aromas melding with soft, toasty oak. Red fruits are lurking – dried cranberries and strawberries.
- More sinew than flesh – a cooler vintage at play here – its more serious as a result.
- With time in the glass the red fruits are liberated – still hemmed in by structure – though raspberries and red raisins do lift their head above the parapet.
- Not a classic Stonier – but a very good example that embraces the vintage. A wine that wrestles with itself. Exceptional value.

Stonier Reserve Pinot Noir 2019

- Garnet red fading to the edges – light and agile – classic pinot as it sits.
- Intense red berry aromas – raspberries and cranberries – both fresh and dried with even a hint of liqueur-cherries in the mix too. A portion of whole bunch in the ferment underwrites aniseed and spice. Oak – while present – is subservient. It's no shrinking violet and carries more confidence and front than most pinots of this age.
- There's a sapid, beautifully fresh red fruitedness that lifts the palate – a tease of caramel oak – though just a tease – with the real presence of this wine captured in its fruit.
- Time in the glass liberates more bass notes – darker cherries and more brood of spice.
- It's a serious wine with will benefit from medium-term cellaring.

Stonier Windmill Vineyard Pinot Noir 2019

- Translucent purple-red – no sign of fading – stable and assured.
- More whole-bunch spice notes on the nose – cloves; red-licorice; and oak-char. Red and black cherries – fruit is latent – lurking with intent. More bass than treble.
- This is earthy pinot noir – sinew and spice melding with lovely toasty oak. Raspberries and dark cherries in a slow dance with tannins and crunchy red cherry acidity.
- This speaks as much of vineyard as it does its region – though unmistakably an expression of the variety.

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