



Product code: 2942

THISTLEDOWN, THE GREAT ESCAPE CHARDONNAY, ADELAIDE HILLS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA, 2018



Producer Profile

Ever since historic Scots, James Busby and John MacArthur founded the Australian wine industry in the early 19th century, the relationship between Scotland and Australia has been an enduring one.

Guardians of a long history, Thistledown Wine Co. continues the tradition of Scottish ingenuity and great Australian wine. From their small-batch winery in the idyllic Adelaide Hills, they work with pristine fruit sourced from iconic vineyard sites.

Viticulture

Great Escape is a benchmark, cool climate Chardonnay produced from fruit grown in elevated vineyard sites which allow for a long ripening period which helps to maintain the natural sugar and acid balance of the grape. With moderate alcohol, focussed, crisp citrus fruit and a mouthwatering finish, this is an accomplished, truly modern style of this noble variety.

Winemaking

As with all their wines, the winemaking process is a gentle one with the intention of preserving the natural flavours of the wine while at the same time building layers of texture. Fruit went directly to press after hand picking. The free run juice was run off to tank to settle. They aim to retain a relatively high level of solids in the ferment, all of which is wild fermented in used French oak or concrete egg. They do not encourage malolactic as they wish to preserve the crisp, citrus fruit profile.

Technical Details

Varieties:
Chardonnay 100%

ABV: 13%

Closure: Screw cap

Colour: White

Style: Still wine

Case Size: 6 x 75cl

Oak Treatment

Time: 10 Months

Type: Tight grain French Oak 300l

% wine oaked: 50

% new oak: 10

Tasting Note

Citrusy, subtle oak influence and a bright yet creamy palate. With moderate alcohol, focussed, crisp citrus fruit and a mouthwatering finish, this is an accomplished, truly modern style of this noble variety.

Food Matching

Shellfish, oysters and aromatic Asian dishes.

Awards

Robert Parkers The Wine Advocate 90 Points

There are 400 cases of the 2018 Great Escape Chardonnay, and most of the wine was made in steel and concrete. The 10% that was fermented in French oak gives the wine just a hint of toast and cedar, but it's mostly about white peaches and citrus. Medium-bodied and silky-textured, it finishes crisp and mouthwatering. 90 Points, 2020.

The Wine Front 90 Points

Once upon a time, the label was quite plain, and in a review of the 2014, I commented on Steve McQueen on a motorcycle, going through the Adelaide Hills. And now the label seems to be just that. So, my usual moronic introductions sometimes find an appreciative home, I guess. 90 Points, GW, 2020.