

2018 Kumeu River Releases



The Vintage of 2018 was reminiscent of the 2011 and 2012 vintages where hand harvesting and severe selection were crucial in maintaining the quality of the wines. As such, the quantity of wine produced in 2018 was severely depleted as we strived to produce wines of the quality that our reputation demands. The single vineyards of Coddington, Hunting Hill and Mate's Vineyard shone through again and showed that these superior vineyard sites perform well even in non-perfect conditions. With the light nature of the vintage the decision was made not to use any new oak on the Chardonnay as we had plenty of seasoned barrels that were suitable for these wines. The Chardonnays were bottled in June 2019 and have come up beautifully with supple texture and

approachability, but also with the concentration that we need for bottle age. There are also a couple of additions to our range with this release. As we mentioned in last year's news, we have bought a vineyard in Raukawa, Hawkes Bay called Rays Road. We are delighted to release the first Chardonnay and Pinot Noir wines under the Kumeu River label with the Rays Road designation.

[2018 Kumeu River Estate Chardonnay](#)

The 2018 vintage was warm but with some weather episodes during harvest. This made hand harvesting crucial in maintaining the high standards for the Estate Chardonnay that we have established for this wine over decades. The nose shows the ripe peach and nutty character that we expect to see from the Estate Chardonnay. The texture is supple and with a beautiful bracing acidity on the finish. The wine is delicious now and will provide beautiful drinking over the next 6 years.

[2018 Kumeu River Coddington Chardonnay](#)

Usually the most flamboyant wine when young, the 2018 Coddington has the typical ripe peach and rich nature on the nose. The palate is beautifully forward with a supple approachability that is common with the 2018 Chardonnays. The wine has density, concentration and luscious creaminess we expect from Coddington and while this makes the wine easy to drink at this early stage no doubt it will take on lovely bottle age as it has done with previous vintages.

[2018 Kumeu River Hunting Hill Chardonnay](#)

The Chardonnays from 2018 are supple and approachable and this makes the typically fragrant Hunting Hill very pretty, with its lemon/lime blossom aromas and hint of orange. The palate has a supple texture and lingering flavour which provides a long finish, and it has a salty, mineral tang on the end. As with previous vintages of Hunting Hill we expect this to drink well for 6 – 8 years

[2018 Kumeu River Mate's Vineyard Chardonnay](#)

The Mate's Vineyard is usually the most reserved and unyielding when young with the nose being closed, just giving hints of the golden queen peach and mineral notes that we expect from Mate's Vineyard. On the palate however, the flavour is very concentrated and distinctly richer than the other 2018 wines, but maintaining a perfect balance and freshness that sets this wine apart and makes it wonderful. Although the 2018 is a little more forward than other vintages this is a wine of concentration that will be very long lived.

Cheers,

The Brajkovich Family