

Internationally renowned wine expert and scribe Nick Ryan, shares his thoughts on Domaine Naturaliste's 2023 line up of Margaret River Chardonnays in today's edition of The Weekend Australian. Here's what Nick has to say...

THE AUSTRALIAN



I have found one of the best value chardonnays on the planet

The result is thrillingly racy and pristine wine unleashed and unapologetically exuberant.

The Dukes way can be seen in three chardonnays from 2023, each strikingly different, but all shaped by deeply considered intentions. The Floris (incidentally one of the best value chardonnays on the planet) is a vehicle for highlighting the white floral notes inherent in the Gin Gin clone of chardonnay so closely associated with Margaret River. Dukes selects barrels with the lightest possible toasting, from the Vosges forest mostly, that he feels best amplify those characters.

The Purus uses the Dijon clones planted at the region's cooler southern end, notable for their ability to ripen fully at lower sugar levels, allowing him to forgo malolactic fermentation. The result is thrillingly racy and pristine. And then there's the Artus, a wine unleashed and unapologetically exuberant. All are brilliant examples of contemporary Margaret River Chardonnay. All are very Bruce Dukes.

DOMAINE NATURALISTE 'FLORIS' CHARDONNAY 2023 Promised floral notes make an immediate impression: jasmine blooming on muggy evenings, chamomile drying in the sun, a hedgerow of elderflowers. White peach and lemon barley water too. Benefits from barrels with the lightest toasting. It's Duke's Blonde on Blonde. 13% alcohol, 94 points

DOMAINE NATURALISTE 'PURUS' CHARDONNAY 2023 Dijon Clones of chardonnay 76 and 95, plus a little Clone 5 from California. This is precise and poised, etched out of crystal. Kinetic and tensile; hums with a high-frequency acidity. Candied lime and jasmine, white peach and grapefruit. An achingly pure acid line. Thrilling. 12.4% alcohol, 96 points

DOMAINE NATURALISTE 'ARTUS' CHARDONNAY 2023 If Purus is a glass box in a Scandinavian forest, this is the stuffed drawing room of a stately home, adornment in abundance, a feast for the senses. The one with the lot. Gin Gin unchained. Popcorn and curry leaf, grapefruit pith and yellow nectarine, grilled pineapple and nougat. Glorious. 13% alcohol, 96 points