

20  14

HAMILTON RUSSELL VINEYARDS

Chardonnay

ESTATE WINE OF ORIGIN – HEMEL-EN-AARDE VALLEY

SOIL: Low-vigour, stony, clay-rich, shale-derived soil
 ALCOHOL: 13.15%
 ACID: 6.90 g/l
 PH: 3.07
 RESIDUAL SUGAR: 1.35 g/l
 BARREL FERMENTATION: 86%
 Foudre: 6% STAINLESS STEEL: 8%
 BARREL AGEING: 8.5 Months in 228 liter French Oak Barrels
 1ST FILL: 26% 2ND FILL: 42% 3RD FILL: 32%
 TIGHT GRAIN: 100%
 FRENCH COOPERS: 95% Francois Freres, 5% Mercurey
 TOASTING: 58% Medium, 17% Medium Long, 25% Blonde
 YIELD: 3.84 tons/ha, 26.12 hl/ha
 PRODUCTION: 7044 cases of 12 bottles equivalent

Release date – December 2014

Growing Season

In general 2014 was a challenging vintage, with warmth and Southeast drizzle in February creating ideal conditions for Botrytis (luckily - and with vigilance – not a problem in the end). This followed an unusually wet January with 1/5th of a year's rainfall occurring over 3 days in what should be a fairly dry month. The standout feature of 2014, was the high level of physiological ripeness at much lower alcohols than usual - a highly desirable, but generally elusive situation for much of the Cape winelands. The wines have benefitted with a rich depth of character and lively tension, without the sweetness and weight of higher alcohol. The year at 24.85 Centigrade, was a cool one in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, when measured in terms of average maximum temperatures for Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar. Cooler than 2009, 20012 and 2013. For comparison, Burgundy for the equivalent period in the Northern Hemisphere averages 24.77 Centigrade. What we thought would be a particularly late harvest was very much in-line with 2013.

Wine Style

A tight, minerally wine with classic Hamilton Russell Vineyards length and complexity. Unusually prominent pear and lime fruit aromas and flavours are brought beautifully into focus by a tight line of bright natural acid and a long, dry minerality. An elegant, yet textured and intense wine with a strong personality of both place and vintage.



*All Hamilton Russell Vineyards wines are grown, made, matured, bottled and labelled
 by Hamilton Russell Vineyards on the Hamilton Russell Vineyards Estate*

Hamilton Russell Vineyards

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