Richard Hamilton McLaren Vale Almond Grove Chardonnay 2024

A little French oak adds an extra dimension to this McLaren Vale Chardonnay. This might not be the first region one thinks of when seeking good Chardonnay but it provides wines with no lack of flavour – surely, half the battle. The colour here is a deep gold. There is a flick of oak influence but it is merely yet another flavour and melding very well. The nose offers us notes of peaches and apricots, stone fruits, and a gentle line of citrus. This is a ripe and full-flavoured style – pretty much in line with expectations – complimented by some crunchy acidity and medium length. An attractive style for younger drinking over the next couple of years.

91 Points - Ken Gargett, Wine Pilot

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Colour
Bright light yellow with green hues.

Bouquet
Fresh cut nectarine. Fragrant and fruit driven with a subtle influence of French oak.

Palate
This elegant and dry contemporary Chardonnay is fruit driven exhibiting stone fruits of peach and nectarine, met with crisp apple and lemon. Lightly toasted oak, a creamy texture and balanced acidity cleanses the palate and supports great length of flavour.

Vineyards
Almond Grove Chardonnay celebrates the historic importance of almonds to McLaren Vale and the beautiful tree blossoms which burst throughout the region during Spring.

Winemaking
Chardonnay grapes were picked to ensure ripe, elegant flavours, while retaining vibrancy and fresh acidity. Free run juice was enhanced with a flavoursome pressings component ahead of wild yeast fermentation. The wine was then matured on lees in French oak to add savoury richness, enhance mouthfeel and overall complexity, and persistence of flavour.

The Hamilton's were South Australia's first family of wine.
On 17 October 1837, Richard Hamilton and family arrived in South Australia (population 2500).
In the true pioneering style, vineyards were a priority and were planted later that year. We look back with appreciation and taking two centuries of learnings, we look forward with enthusiasm.