



SPY VALLEY Chardonnay 2015



Country

New Zealand

Region

Marlborough

Subregion

Waihopa Valley

Viticulturist

Adam McCone

Winemakers

Paul Bourgeois & Richelle Collier

Varietal Blend

100% Chardonnay

Alcohol Content

13%

Residual Sugar

1.6 g/L

Total Acidity

6.5 g/L

HISTORY

In the 1990's, deep in the Waihopai Valley, Bryan and Jan Johnson established 180 hectares/445 acres of estate vineyards on land considered too hard, too dry and too unfertile for wine. This pioneering spirit is one of New Zealand's most successful and Marlborough's few remaining 100% Kiwi family-owned wineries. Located up the road from a US government listening post (the Spy base) - Spy Valley Wines focuses on a sustainable philosophy and shares their secrets with us through every bottle.

VINIFICATION and MATURATION

This wine comes from Vineyards in two areas. The Johnson Vineyard Lodge and B Blocks are located Waihopai Valley. They both have variable stony silt loam terraces, are free draining, and were planted with clones 2-23, UCD6, UCD15, B95, and B96. The grapes are also sourced from the Outpost Vineyard in Omaka Valley. It is on a north facing hilltop, with windblown clay/loess over clay soils with bound gravel. Clones B95 and Mendoza were used in this vineyard. Two cane vertical shoot positioning is used, with shoot and bunch thinning to restrict yield. Grapes are hand picked over six separate passes before gentle whole cluster pressing. Free run full solids juice is fermented entirely in barrels with around 75% being natural fermentation. After 11 months on full lees the barrels are selected and blended prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Aromas of cashews, peach and nougat-like from its aging in barrels. Fine acidity on the palate is balanced by a generous weight and a saline persistence.

ACCOLADES

90

Wine Spectator, 2019

90

The Wine Front, 2018

