



# OCTAGON BLOCK CHARDONNAY 2023

## VINTAGE NOTES

The 2023 growing season was bookended by warm weather in June and September but there were multiple plot twists in between. Taken in isolation, the mean values for precipitation and warmth suggest a straightforward vintage. The vines, however, had other ideas and the problem posed was how best to manage oversized bunches. Crop thinning was meticulous, the task requiring bunch-by-bunch appraisal. Only small clusters were retained to benefit from a high light environment.

The wines now in bottle reflect September's generosity: Chardonnay is ripe and expressive, while the Estate Pinot, softened by extended barrel aging, may be our best yet.

## THE VINEYARD

The Octagon Block is the most established

vineyard on the estate with an eclectic soil profile. Spanning over 12 acres, most of the vines sit on glaciofluvial sediments of sandy gravel, known as Danbury Gravel, that accumulated during the last Ice Age, and clay outcrops at the lower, southern end. Clay is renowned for producing powerful wines and gravel pulls in the opposite direction. The Octagon Block has proven itself capable of producing Chardonnay and Pinot Noir that are exceptionally rich and complex.

## VINIFICATION

Fruit was handpicked and whole bunch pressed. After little or no settling the juice was transferred to 228L Burgundian oak barrels for fermentation. The wine was then left on gross lees for 18 months, where malolactic fermentation took place without battonage. The wine received another 12 months elevage before release without any fining.



## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- Barrel aged:  
100% French oak for 18 months
- pH: 3.03
- TA: 7.4 g/L
- Alcohol: 14%

## TASTING NOTE

Gold-green colour. Lime-cordial note on the nose, plus tropical fruit, coffee, cinnamon and coconut. Peach and pineapple on the palate plus bitter-orange peel. Creamy, almost buttery with coconut on the finish. Blimey, this could be California. Impressive.  
*17.5 - Henry Jeffreys, JancisRobinson.com*

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**DANBURY RIDGE**  
WINE ESTATE

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