

2018 John Martin Chardonnay

Established in 1984, our land was originally owned by the founding father of Martinborough, John Martin, in the late 1800s. The over 130 year-old cottage that still stands on our property serves as both an icon and hospitality center for our winery. Our wines come from our 105 hectares of sustainably-farmed vineyards planted on ancient riverbeds. While our passion and specialty at Te Kairanga has always been Pinot Noir, we also make small amounts of Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling and Pinot Gris.

MARTINBOROUGH

Martinborough is at the southern end of New Zealand's North Island. Roughly 90 minutes from Wellington, New Zealand's capital, this tiny region accounts for less than 2% of the country's total wine production. Martinborough is protected from the harsh elements by a range of mountains to the southwest and west creating a climate that is mild, breezy, dry and ideal for cool-climate grapes. Most of the premier vineyards are planted on stony terraces that provide exceptional drainage and high mineral content. More than half of Martinborough's vineyards are planted to Pinot Noir.

VINEYARDS

At Te Kairanga, we have 105 hectares of vines planted at four vineyard sites in the Martinborough appellation. This diversity provides our winemaking team with a wide array of aromatics, flavours, textures and styles to work with. The Martinborough Terrace, considered one of the premier growing areas, is home to our Home and McLeod Vineyards. Once an ancient riverbed, it features deep gravel and alluvial soils and a mild climate. At slightly higher elevations with more extreme conditions are our Spring Rock and Rua vineyards. All of our properties are sustainably farmed.

WINEMAKING

Under the direction of Chief Winemaker, John Kavanagh, our winemaking philosophy places a premium on the character of the site. Our 2018 John Martin Chardonnay uses predominantly the Mendoza clone from our Home Vineyard. Once hand sorted at the winery, it is gently whole-bunch pressed and fermented with wild yeast. It is aged for 10 months in French oak puncheons (500ltr). The wine undergoes 100% malolactic fermentation, providing structure and length to a tightly wound, yet complex and refined wine.

CLONES	Mendoza (80.7%), 95 (13%), 6 (6.3%)
REGION	Martinborough, New Zealand
ALCOHOL	13.0%
AGING	10 months in French oak (26.7% new)
TA	5.4 g/L
PH	3.34
RS	0.63 g/L

TASTING

Our 2018 John Martin Chardonnay is a light straw colour. The bouquet shows integrated roasted nuts, stone fruit, and saline depth. On the palate a full, firm-structured entry opens to complex flavours of roasted nuts, baked bread, white peach, and a lingering finish.