

Escaroth Vineyard Chardonnay

2019



94 POINTS

Rebecca Gibb MW | Vinous Media

November 2020 *A suave and seamless Chardonnay that's very relaxed in its own skin. This low-yield season has provided excellent fruit concentration. The combination of barrels and puncheons infuses a nutty, savory element and there's also an appetizing waft of smoky bacon. A fine line of lemon-peel-like acidity emerges on the mouthwatering finish. Excellent harmony and will improve with additional bottle age allowing the oak aromas to soften. This is the cuvée's inaugural vintage, and I cannot wait to see the next.*

93 POINTS

Nick Stock | JamesSuckling.com

November 2020 *Very impressive complexity and purity here with struck-match, grapefruit and lemon-peel aromas, as well as peach and some gently creamy notes. The palate has vibrant peach and lemon-curd flavors and grilled hazelnut warming the finish. Drink now. Screw cap.*

4.5 STARS

Michael Cooper | michaelcooperwines.com

August 2020 *The very ageworthy 2019 vintage (4.5*) is a single-vineyard wine, grown at Taylors Pass, in the Southern Valleys. Hand-picked, it was fermented with indigenous yeasts in French oak barriques and puncheons (30 per cent new). Bright, light lemon/green, it has a fragrant, youthful, complex, slightly smoky bouquet. Weighty, with generous, grapefruit-like flavours, a subtle seasoning of oak, excellent complexity, balanced acidity and a tight-knit finish, it should be at its best 2022+.*

WINE OF THE WEEK | 94 POINTS & 4 STARS

Bob Campbell MW

July 2020 *From a north-facing slope in the Southern Valleys Taylor Pass. Concentrated savoury chardonnay with chalky, oyster-shell, mineral, grapefruit, hazelnut, almond and baguette crust flavours. A youthful wine that promises to develop well in bottle.*

94 POINTS

Cameron Douglas MS | camdouglasms.com

May 2020 *Intense aromas of wood smoke and barrel spice then ruby grapefruit, peach and baked orchard fruits. Youthful and very inviting bouquet. On the palate - weighty, silky, warm, fleshy, spicy, smoky and dry. Fruits flavours reflect the nose with yellow fleshed stone fruits, some apple and grapefruit. Lovely wine on the palate - a Chardonnay lovers paradise. Still developing so no rush to drink till mid, even end of, 2021 and through 2025.*

THE BEST NEW ZEALAND WINES TO TRY NOW

Sarah Heller MW | HK Tatler Magazine

June 2021 *New Zealand's newest Master of Wine, ex-solicitor Sophie Parker-Thomson, has been making small-batch wines from Hawke's Bay and Marlborough with her husband Matt since 2013, but this is her first vintage of this single-vineyard chardonnay. Putting paid to the outdated notion that female winemakers make "feminine" wine styles, Escaroth is declamatory and bold with burnished, golden fruit and buttered brioche held aloft by a fine net of acidity.*

93 POINTS & TOP NEW ZEALAND WINES 2021 LIST

James Suckling | [jamessuckling.com](https://www.jamessuckling.com)

August 2021

Very impressive complexity and purity here with struck-match, grapefruit and lemon-peel aromas, as well as peach and some gently creamy notes. The palate has vibrant peach and lemon-curd flavors and grilled hazelnut warming the finish.

17.5/20 POINTS

Julia Harding MW | [jancisrobinson.com](https://www.jancisrobinson.com)

January 2022

A little less open than the Reed Vineyard Chardonnay 2019 and more savoury. Less stylised, it seems, though still a definite 'reductive' aroma and style. Intensely mineral on the palate with outstanding intensity and freshness, with remarkable precision and crystalline purity on the palate thanks to the vibrant fruit, with citrus and blackcurrant bud. Juicy fruit even with all this sophistication, adding sensual pleasure to the cerebral attraction of this wine. Poised, complex, with good ageing potential.