

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 | jamesuckling.com

August 2021

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