

# Chardonnay

## 2020



### 94 POINTS

**James Suckling | [jamesuckling.com](http://jamesuckling.com)**

October 2022

*Rich and reductive nose of toast, lemon curd, mango stones, cloves, saffron, smoke and pineapples, Deep and oily with a full body and bright acidity. Toasty. Salted caramel at the end.*

### 92 POINTS

**Rebecca Gibb MW | [Vinous](#)**

January 2023

*The 2020 Chardonnay is a powerful, forthright style. This young, reductive, barrel-fermented style provides evident flint, smoky bacon and hazelnut aromas atop the savoury fruit. It offers muscle and firmness within its medium-bodied core. It's a serious and unapologetic style erring on the right side of funky. It deserves several years in bottle to gel.*

### 95/100 POINTS

**Sam Kim | [www.wineorbit.co.nz](http://www.wineorbit.co.nz)**

June 2023

*Impressively complex and engaging, the bouquet shows ripe stone fruit, gun smoke, lemon peel, cedar and oatmeal aromas, leading to a powerfully expressed palate offering awesome weight and persistency. The wine is wonderfully textured and mouthfilling with a lengthy creamy finish.*

### 94 POINTS

**Cameron Douglas MS | [camdouglasms.com](http://camdouglasms.com)**

July 2023

*Classic Peg-Bay bouquet of power and richness, no mistaking the intensity of style as well as nutty oak and ripeness of stone fruits, cashew and Brazil-nut some burnt butter and baking spices, roasted stone fruits, pineapple and a whisper of butterscotch. Full-bodied, rich in flavours with a creamy satin texture. A mix of sweet oak and medium+ alcohol, plenty of acidity leading to a complete, lengthy finish. Best drinking from 2024 through 2030+.*

### 5 STARS

**Michael Cooper | [www.michaelcooperwines.com](http://www.michaelcooperwines.com)**

September 2023

*Strapping yet delicate, richly flavoured yet subtle, this sophisticated North Canterbury wine is one of the country's best Chardonnays grown south of Marlborough. Muscular and taut, it typically offers a seamless array of fresh, crisp, citrusy, biscuity, complex flavours and great concentration and length. Estate-grown at Waipara, it is based on ungrafted, Mendoza clone vines (over 30 years old), hand-picked and given lengthy oak aging ... Still very youthful, the vigorous 2020 vintage is bright, light yellow/green, with a fragrant, slightly smoky bouquet. Tightly structured, it has intense, peachy, citrusy, mealy flavours, gently seasoned with biscuity oak, vibrant acidity and a sustained finish.*

### 92/100 POINTS

**Erin Larkin | [www.robertparker.com](http://www.robertparker.com)**

December 2023

*The 2020 Chardonnay is Mendoza clone on own roots. The fruit set in 2020 yielded good amounts with normal sized berries, and the fruit was good—not too concentrated or intense. On the nose, there's curry leaf and dehydrated mandarin, Szechuan peppercorn, fried shallots and sea salt, cumin seeds, heavy toast vanilla cake and lemongrass. The wine is rich and concentrated. Full throttle! There's salted white peach, torched caramel/burnt brown sugar.*



