



Kumeu River 2020 offer

The Greatest Vintage So Far for Kumeu?

'There is no doubt that the Brajkovich family, at Kumeu River, makes the most famous portfolio of Chardonnays in New Zealand. Elegant, long-lived, great value and unique these wines have every element that makes them essential additions for any serious wine collector's cellar.'

Matthew Jukes

To place your order contact: shane@woodwinters.com

Pinot Gris 2020

£75 per 12 in bond

Whilst Kumeu River are famous for their Chardonnays they also make a delicious Pinot Gris; with a touch more residual sugar making it great with Far-East cuisine.

'Drinking now and looking rather sleek and sexy already, you will not be surprised to hear that this is a PG made with Chardonnay hands. Not too rich, nicely spicy and with the merest hint of exoticism, other than that this is a Chardy in PG's clothing and that makes it another winner.'

17/20 Matthew Jukes

Village Chardonnay 2020

£85 per 12 in bond

Oak – 42% fermented in old French oak barriques and 58% in stainless steel tanks.

'There are only two wines that are, in theory, drinking now. This one and the PG below. Keen, bright, nicely raspy on the finish and perfectly balanced this is Michael Brajkovich's gauntlet-throwing, entry-level wine which challenges every cheap Chablis and Mâcon to a duel knowing it will win the contest in a moment.'

17/20 Matthew Jukes

'The 2020 Chardonnay Kumeu Village is the 'entry' to New Zealand's most famous Chardonnay producer's range. It is clean and precise and focuses on pure fruit, offering flavours of nectarine, red grapefruit and white flowers. While some of the wine has been fermented in French oak, there is very little evidence of oak in terms of aroma and flavour, although the zesty style has had its corners rounded by barrel influence. A bright, crisp Chardonnay for enjoying in youth.'

87 Vinous

Estate Chardonnay 2020

£155 per 12 in bond

Oak – 100% barrel fermentation in 20% new French oak and 100% malolactic fermentation with 11 months maturation in barrel.

'The level of oaking in these wines is always very controlled but it sticks out more in the Estate creation than in all of the other wines and this means that it definitely needs more time. Bold, assertive and punchy, this is a grand-shaped wine for the money and the thought of opening a few magnums in five or six years' time is indeed rather attractive. For now, though, keep your hands off this wine!'

17.5/20 Matthew Jukes

'There's a sense of calm to the 2020 Chardonnay Estate, a blend of six different sites. It is mellow, offering a plump cushion of Chardonnay goodness on the mid-palate but not becoming heavy nor opulent, its youthful edge and fresh acidity tying it together into a precise finish. It offers classic subtle Chardonnay characters of Golden Delicious apple, white nectarine and a mere whiff of oak-derived smokiness. Well constructed, satisfying and elegant.'

91 Vinous

Ray's Road Chardonnay 2020

£175 per 12 in bond

'While the first two wines are ready to go and eminently affordable for everyday drinking, we now take a big step up for the rest of the portfolio. A new wine in the line-up and it pleases me greatly to see that it comes from Hawke's Bay. I adore Hawke's Bay Chardonnay and I can certainly see why these coolish climate kings have chosen to seek more fruit and also more challenges in this part of Kiwiland. I love Rays road. Classy, layered and complete this is a very different take on this grape from the remainder of the portfolio, given that the rest come from Kumeu (north of Auckland). There is a distinct beginning, middle and end here, which is often a challenge in a new wine and particularly I love the acid line and elegance on the finish.'

18/20 Matthew Jukes

'In 2017, Kumeu River spread its wings to Hawke's Bay, purchasing Rays Road, a site on limestone at 180 meters in altitude. The 2020 Chardonnay Rays Road displays a fuller style, offering breadth and a smooth embrace. There are subtle aromatics – this is Chardonnay, after all – suggesting Golden Delicious apples meeting beeswax and shortbread, and modest concentration and length. The wine's appeal is in its textural, mouth-coating finish.'

88 Vinous

Hunting Hill Chardonnay 2020

£170 per 6 in bond

Oak – 100% barrel fermentation in 25% new French oak and 100% malolactic fermentation with 11 months maturation in barrel.

'Hunting Hill is now a fifty quid proposition so you have to be a fan to get in here. This is a commanding HH and it shows the restraint and also the structure that this label can summon up in the best vintages. Backward, tense and self-conscious, this will be a resounding success but you must be patient. I would be tempted to put a 'timer' on for eight years. While this might sound crazy, in my experience, this will be around when this wine starts to blossom.'

18/20 Matthew Jukes

'Possibly the most complete Hunting Hill Chardonnay I've tasted in youth, the 2020 provides a harmonious, melt-in-your-mouth impression. It has breadth and concentration but retains a sense of elegance on the mid-palate before finishing with precision and length. Yes, there's a little bit of flint character too, but then Hunting Hill is known to be reductive; give it time. Like Forrest Gump, it runs through a finish line and keeps on going effortlessly. There's no box of chocolates here, though; it's all white nectarine, citrus, white flowers and a touch of smoked nuts.'

95 Vinous

**Prices are per case under bond
All wines offered whilst remaining unsold**