



Blind Tasting 101 – White Wines

Blind Tasting Series

This series gives you tips, tricks and techniques to elevate your tasting skills to the next level, led by our Madame Bollinger Award winning Master of Wine, Justin Martindale

The Wines

We feature three different Chardonnays in this video, details of which are below:

1. Yellow Tail Chardonnay 2023, SE Australia

One of the most powerful wine brands in the world, selling in excess of 13m cases to more than 60 countries.

Winemaking process is not published

7g/l Residual Sugar, 13% Alc

https://www.yellowtailwine.com/en_gb/au/product/chardonnay/

2. Domaine Bernard Michaut 'Beauroy' Chablis Premier Cru 2022

100% Chardonnay grown on Kimmeridgian Clay. Vineyards are planted at 6,000 vines per hectare with an average vine age of 60 years.

The wine is fermented in stainless steel at 18 degrees, after which the wine is aged for 12 months before release, two thirds in stainless steel and one third in oak.

Total production is around 25,000 bottles per year.

<https://chablis-michaut.fr/en/our-wines-2/>

3. Kumeu River 'Hunting Hill' 2016, Auckland, New Zealand

The 'Hunting Hill' vineyard was first planted in 1982 and became a significant part of the original Kumeu River Chardonnay blend. Located on the slope overlooking Maté's Vineyard, it has always contributed rich fruit. Hunting Hill was replanted in 2000 and winemaker Michael Brajkovich MW feels that it is now even better than before, giving beautifully ripe fruit with a distinctive mineral nuance. Vine age played an important role in this wine.

The hand harvested parcels were whole-bunch pressed, then fermentation was initiated with an indigenous yeast, with the wine undergoing 100% barrel fermentation and malolactic fermentation and matured in oak for around 11 months before blending and bottling

<https://kumeuriver.co.nz/collections/single-vineyard-wines/products/kumeu-river-hunting-hill-chardonnay>

Further Info

If you enjoyed this introduction to white wine techniques, you may be interested in our 'how to blind taste Chardonnay' video which follows on from this and uses the same wines. You can find it in the studio here.

Justin Martindale MW, Membership & Community Manager, WSG