

# THE OLIVE GROVE



## Chardonnay 2022

*McLaren Vale, Adelaide Hills, Chardonnay (100%)*

### The Name

Since European settlement in the 1840's, olive trees have thrived in McLaren Vale. They are alongside roads, in gardens and occasionally, in the middle of our Chardonnay vineyards blocking our harvester!

### The Vintage

It has been a good winter, the early Spring rains set the vines up very well. November was about 3 degrees colder than average and so the set was variable, especially Mourvèdre which suffered the worst. Luckily, many varieties still had quite a large potential crop, so yields ended about 15% down from 2021 (which was a big crop year). December was bone dry, but January saw 33mm compared to 20mm average. This too set the vines up very well. There was almost no rain and very mild conditions in February, March and April, free of hot or cold spells which resulted in very good leaf retention and ripening. All varieties resulted in outstanding wines. At this stage, It is early to call the vintage but I believe the reds from this vintage are the best I have seen in years. They show great colour fruit, fruit fragrance, richness, acidity, tannins and style. The Red skins were very thick and crunchy and no shrivel was seen, resulting in high tannin content, causing us to pull juice off the skins sweeter than usual, to achieve the desired results.

### The Winemaking

Small batches of grapes are gently crushed, chilled, and then basket pressed. To add complexity and mouthfeel the wine is fermented and matured in French oak for seven months.

### The Characteristics

The most classic d'Arenberg Chardonnay never disappoints . Complex and powerful with layers of stone fruits, white peach, apricot, freshness of melon, oak spices and creamy cashew run through the bouquet and palate alike. Velvety texture and balanced acidity are complemented by the generous and precise finish.



Harvest dates	16 Feb - 12 Apr	Alcohol	13%
Residual sugar	3.2 g/l	Titrateable acid	7.7
pH	3.3	Oak maturation	7 months
Chief Winemaker	Chester Osborn	Senior Winemaker	Jack Walton