



2017 CASA FRESCHI RAGAZZI CHARDONNAY

VARIETY: Chardonnay
REGION: Adelaide Hills, South Australia
ALCOHOL: 12.5%v/v
AVE VINE AGE: 13 years
AVE YIELD: 400g/vine (20hl/Ha) -

VINEYARD:

100% single vineyard located amongst the highest (560m-580m altitude), steepest and coolest slopes near Mt Lofty in the Adelaide Hills. The site possesses two steep, north-facing amphitheatres, both with well-drained ancient rocky soils comprising of a mosaic of shale, quartz, sandstone, ironstone and silt. The mean average growing season temperature of 15.6C is comparable to that of Burgundy and Alsace in France. The high annual rainfall of 42 inches (1050mm) allows the vineyard to be dry grown. The vines are grown without the use of synthetic fertilizers, fungicides and pesticides. The vineyard is hand pruned and hand harvested.

WINEMAKING:

The fruit was collected in 8kg crates, whole bunch pressed and the juice transferred directly by gravity into a subterranean cellar where wild yeast fermentation took place. Each barrique representing an individual pressing of the 10 plantings of different clones/rootstocks/slopes/vine age, allowing them to be assessed up to the end of maturation. 100% of the wine was barrel fermented in seasoned French oak barriques and aged on its yeast lees for 6 months, 6% underwent malolactic fermentation. The wine was fermented to dryness and allowed to clarify and stabilize naturally without fining before being racked, blended, filtered and bottled.

RRP/BOTTLE AUS: \$28

WINEMAKERS COMMENTS:

A cold spring and late flowering, followed by a cooler than average summer resulted in the latest harvest on record. The Chardonnay was picked 6 weeks later than average in late March. The long, cool ripening period was ideal in developing deep flavours and physiological ripeness at low sugar levels, resulting in beautifully elegant and savoury wines with lovely phenolic backbone and fresh natural acidity.

With Chardonnay, the variation in characteristics in each parcel (from a different clone/rootstock or aspect) is quite pronounced and we have planted the vineyard to be able to choose from many (10 in total).

The Ragazzi Chardonnay cuvee is chosen from those that are charming and accessible in their youth (i.e. with more open aromatics and juiciness)

REVIEWS:

"The usual attention to detail has resulted in a complex but perfectly balanced wine with crystal clear varietal expression firmly placed in the driver's seat. Even with the low alcohol, the flavours are of white peach, nectarine and creamy fig, citrus appearing with the acidity." *Screwcap. 12.5%alc* **Rating 94 To 2029 Special Value.** *James Halliday Wine Companion 2019*

