

2020 Chardonnay Bannockburn

92 Points

There's not a great deal of the 2020 Chardonnay Bannockburn, as yields hit a 10-year low due to poor flowering. However, with the ensuing cool season, it was a blessing not to be holding heavy crops. What's more, there's plentiful concentration here, really packing the intensity of fruit into a focused core. The ripe fruit is reminiscent of apple, elderflower and lightly cooked pineapple; there's a light almond character characteristic of high solids as well as time on lees in older neutral barrels. The finish has plenty of vigor, with firm acidity and grip on the finish.

2020 Chardonnay Block 2

95 Points

Hard day at the office? Kids sapping your will to live? Drink the 2020 Chardonnay Block 2 – there's no way you won't feel energized after a glass of this. This is a wine that knows where it's going, with banging acidity and low pH providing the horsepower. It focuses on purity and clarity; while there are barrels involved in its production, there's no new oak. Despite its punch, lees aging (11 months gross) has added succulence through the midpalate as well as almond-meal-like flavors. The finish is vibrant, pure and clean, with nectarine, citrus and subtle nutty characters lingering long.

2020 Chardonnay Block 6

96 Points

Where the 2020 Chardonnay Block 2 is direct and unwavering, the 2020 Block 6 is charming. Due to the north-facing orientation, the acidity is lower than Block 2 while the fruit is more exposed and tends to become more golden. This gives the Block 6 more rounded shoulders as well as a bit of flesh around its waistline. That said, it's still focused, pure and vibrant, with tangy acidity making your mouth water uncontrollably. It displays excellent clarity of fruit, reminiscent of citrus and nectarine, and there's also a delicate floral note. Subtle oak use and light almondy nuances from lees aging. Charming yet invigorating.

2021 Dry Riesling

90 Points

The 2021 Dry Riesling from Felton Road is a lively number: light-bodied and spirited, with insatiable acidity. There's a slight element of phenolics giving a light, grippy texture on the citrus- and floral-infused conclusion.

2021 Riesling Block 1

95 Points

The 2021 Riesling Block 1 is a powerful, no-holds-barred style. Lively on entry, it's sweet and inviting initially, but within its core lies a wine that needs to be taken seriously for its acid-phenolic drive, propelling the wine onward with floral, elderflower, orange blossom and apple-like flavors on the long finish. A smart wine that has sought a fine balance between sweetness and structure – and succeeded.

2021 Riesling Bannockburn

93 Points

The 2021 Riesling Bannockburn is really pretty, pure and fine, skipping along like a child in a meadow. The residual sugar allows the wine to bloom in the mouth despite its naturally light-bodied frame, providing a succulence that remains honed, thanks to excellent structural components of acidity and phenolics. Men might not understand this analogy, but drinking this wine is like putting your boobs in a reassuringly supportive sports bra: it just holds everything in the right place.