

KUMEU RIVER

# 2008 Hunting Hill Chardonnay



## Vineyard Region

Kumeu is a sub-region of the Auckland wine district. Despite being situated well north of New Zealand's other viticultural regions, Kumeu's climate is kept cool due to its close proximity to the Tasman Sea, just 20 kilometers (nearly 12.5 miles) to the west, and the Pacific Ocean 30 kilometers (18.6 miles) to the east. These two large bodies of water generate clouds, keeping peak summer temperatures below 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit).

## Hunting Hill Vineyard

Overlooking Maté's Vineyard, Hunting Hill is named after the hillside farmland where Maté used to hunt rabbits and pheasants for the home kitchen. It was the site of the first vines to produce Kumeu River Chardonnay in the mid-1980s, and has always contributed lovely ripe, rich fruit to the Estate Chardonnay. After being replanted in 2000, Hunting Hill shows beautifully ripe fruit with a distinctive minerality.

## 2008 Vintage Notes

The 2008 vintage was warm and dry and produced ripe, luscious Chardonnay across all of the Kumeu River vineyards. Accordingly, the 2008 Hunting Hill is a little riper and more forward than usual.

## Technical Information

*Varietal Composition:* 100% Chardonnay

*Vinification:* Whole-bunch pressed  
Indigenous yeast fermentation  
100% barrel fermentation  
100% malolactic fermentation  
11 months in barrel

*Cases Imported:* 300 (12/750ml)

*Alcohol:* 13.5%

## Tasting Notes

This wine shares some characters with the neighboring Maté's Vineyard with its attractive floral notes and restrained elegance. The 2008 vintage has a delightful aroma of lime and white flowers, and is reminiscent of the "gloriously pure Puligny" description that Jancis Robinson gave to the 1989 Kumeu River Chardonnay. The texture is beautifully silky and dances across the palate to a deliciously long, fine finish. This wine will improve with bottle age for four to six years.

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