

innocent bystander

Innocent Bystander, Yarra Valley Chardonnay 2016

PRODUCER

This winery changed hands in May 2016, with one family company, Brown Brothers, taking it off the hands of another, its founder, Phil Sexton. So associated is Innocent Bystander with the Yarra Valley that the new owners made the intelligent decision to build a new winery in Healesville, just across the parking lot from Giant Steps. They quickly signed contracts with all the grape growers that Phil used for Innocent Bystander, so that the style of the wines remains unchanged. This style of wines that are regional and varietal, reflecting the soil, climate and topography of the cool climate in the Yarra Valley has been the base upon which the reputation of Innocent Bystander has been built.

VINEYARDS

Fruit for this wine was sourced from three of the the Innocent Bystander estate vineyards: Sexton, Tarraford and Applejack. This selective approach results in highly expressive wines, true to the regional characteristics of the Yarra Valley.

VINTAGE

The Yarra Valley experienced slightly above average rainfall for the 2015 winter. This replenished the soils of much needed moisture leading into the growing season. The dry mild conditions through spring lowered the potential for disease. This enabled the winegrowers to keep the vineyards in a clean healthy state. Very good yields and excellent quality appeared to be the theme from all vineyards this year.

VINIFICATION

Fruit was hand picked and whole bunch pressed, with the free run juice kept separate from the pressings. No racking or clarification of the juice occurred, so the free run was fermented on juice solids. Fermentation was done using indigenous yeast in new and seasoned French barriques and puncheons, with the lees stirred monthly until winter. No malolactic fermentation took place. The wine was lightly fined only prior to bottling in February 2016.

TASTING NOTES

Fresh pear and lemon perfumes combine with notes of delicate white flowers. Lovely soft aromas of poached apple and marzipan evolve in the glass. Crisp, fresh and dry on the palate, the wine is tightly sprung then unwinds to reveal a citrus pith texture, wrapped around a fresh stone fruit core.



VINTAGE INFORMATION

Vintage	2016
Region	Yarra Valley, Victoria
Grape Varieties	100% Chardonnay
Winemaker	Steve Flamsteed
Closure	Screwcap
ABV	13.5%
Bottle Sizes	75cl