

innocent bystander

Innocent Bystander, Yarra Valley Chardonnay 2021

Yarra Valley, Victoria, Australia



PRODUCER

Innocent Bystander's reputation has been built upon the style of their regional and varietal wines, which reflect the soil, climate and topography of the cool Yarra Valley. Owned by one of Australia's leading family-owned wine companies, Brown Brothers, the Yarra Valley fruit is harvested and immediately transported to their winery in Milawa, Northern Victoria. Here the winemaking team process the grapes in their 'Kindergarten Winery', specially designed for small batches and different winemaking techniques for minimal intervention.

VINEYARDS

Chardonnay parcels were sourced from sites in both the Upper Yarra and the Valley floor, for a combination of citrus freshness and riper stone fruit characters. This selective approach results in highly expressive wines, true to the regional characteristics across the Yarra Valley. Selective mechanical harvest was used for the 2021 Chardonnay.

VINTAGE

2021 was the tale of two seasons. A wet spring was followed by a healthy amount of sunshine and some well-timed rain in January, resulting in green, healthy canopies. Then, only weeks before picking, the sun came out and led to fully ripe and flavoursome Chardonnay with excellent natural acidity.

VINIFICATION

The fruit was gently pressed with only the free-run juice used. No racking or clarification was performed prior to fermentation, which took place in a mixture of new and seasoned French barriques, and stainless steel vats. Indigenous fermentation occurred in barrel, while the QA23 yeast strain was used in tank. The barrel lees were stirred monthly until winter and no malolactic fermentation took place. The wine was held in oak and stainless steel for approximately nine months before it was blended, lightly fined and bottled.

TASTING NOTES

This sophisticated and perfectly poised Chardonnay reveals aromas of fresh pear, lemon and poached apple that mingle with notes of blossom and marzipan. 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.

Grape Varieties	100% Chardonnay
Winemaker	Geoff Alexander
Closure	Screwcap
ABV	13%
Acidity	7g/L
Wine pH	3.15
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan