

# THE WINES OF KEVIN GRANT



## CHARDONNAY 2020

**Alcohol** = 13.48 vol%

**Res Sugar** = 3.5 g/l

**Total Acidity** = 6.8 g/l

**pH** = 3.22

**Barrel Ageing** = 10 months in 225L French oak barrels

**Wood Age** = New 20%

**Cases produced:** 1982 x 12

**Bottled:** December 2020

**Release Date:** March 2021

### Winemaker's Notes

This *vin de terroir* is Ataraxia's forward-looking **BLACK** Chardonnay. In our quest to accurately and authentically express the soul of our terroir (over trying to conjure an expression of the grape itself through winemaking alchemy), we used this old, almost forgotten, traditional Burgundy method. Rather than pressing gently, the fruit was vigorously worked. It almost felt like an act of violence! Then, instead of denying the must (juice) oxygen, it was generously aerated. Black magic happened when juice as dark as ebony as it flowed from the press, was transformed into a shimmering green-tinted yellow hue by the end of fermentation. The science behind this method is that the more oxygen the must absorbs, the less oxygen is consumed by the wine, which then has much more resistance against oxidative degradation (yellowing) during aging.

Spontaneous and complete barrel fermentation and subsequent ageing in specially selected French oak barrels sourced exclusively from Burgundian coopers comprised part of a gentle, minimalist, non-interventionist winemaking approach employed after the "bludgeoning" that occurred at the press. In this way we have crafted an astonishing and arrestingly authentic wine interpretation of a terroir ideally suited to Chardonnay.

### Wine Style

This soil-driven Chardonnay is New World in provenance but Old World in stylistic leaning. Athletic in structure, it effortlessly manages to be both subtle and intense. It is vibrant and spicy, with alluring creamy notes. An assertive mineral acidity beautifully balances a compelling intensity of fruit. There is a surprising touch of "grip" to the finish deftly rounded off with complex savoury, briny, and flinty notes. A stylish, world-class Chardonnay.