NSW

NICK SPENCER WINES

2021 AMPHORA CHARDONNAY



Introduction to the wine

A blend of Tumbarumba (50%), Orange (25%) and Hunter Valley (25%). This wine was born out of an idea to try and make the best Chardonnay possible in New South Wales without being confined to regions or vineyard or other philosophical boundaries. A nod to the Penfolds approach perhaps of chasing quality without obstacle or boundaries. Finally in 2021 I was able to source suitable fruit from Orange and The Hunter Valley to blend with my Tumbarumba Chardonnay. I chose amphoras to ferment and mature in so as not to let any other factors contribute to the wine beyond the fruit. The Amphoras I have sourced were selected because of their configuration to be able to fill the vessel completely into an expansion chamber in order to maintain a reductive environment. They are made from compressed sandstone.

Technical Information

Variety - 100% Chardonnay
Region - Tumbarumba, Orange and Hunter Valley
pH - 3.1
TA - 7.2
alc - 13.2
Residual sugar - 0.4g/L
Bottling date - Feb 2022

Winemaking

All parcels were hand picked, wholebunch pressed and fermented in amphoras without settling. Matured in amphoras for 12 months and bottled.

Vintage

2021 was consistent with the vast majority of the rest of Australia. Cool and relatively wet. Yields were low and ripening was prolonged. As a consequence most fruit was picked earlier than normal to retain natural acidity and the wines tend to be a bit lighter on their feet with lighter colour and intensity.

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Reviews -

95 Points - Gary Walsh, Winefront

"50% Tumbarumba / 25% Hunter Valley / 25% Orange. A Nick Spencer Wine (NSW), that covers much of NSW. 45 dozen produced.
A very intelligent, thoughtful, and gifted winemaker is Nick Spencer.

Nutty, distinctly saline, pink grapefruit and aniseed, rocky and stony, a little white peach. Texture is excellent, again has a powdery/crushed rock texture, a juicy citrine and fresh pineapple tang, a pure feel to it, though it's still quite savoury in flavour. Finish is very long and precise and has zest and intensity. Wonderful wine. Very different, and very bloody good. Bravo!"