

Bilancia

Bilancia Tiratore La Collina Vineyard Chardonnay is a beautifully balanced expression of Hawke's Bay Chardonnay , delivering fresh citrus and stone fruit notes with a precise mineral finish, crafted from the renowned la collina vineyard .

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Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Chardonnay

Tiratore La Collina Vineyard Chardonnay 2020

Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

Region and Vineyards

The **Bilancia Tiratore Chardonnay** is produced from the **la collina vineyard** in **Hawke's Bay**, New Zealand. The vineyard is planted on **lower slopes, terraces, and an old riverbed**, providing a range of soil types that add complexity to the wine. The vineyard is notable for its variety of **Chardonnay clones**, predominantly **B95** and **UCD15**, with smaller contributions from **548** and **809** in this vintage.

The site has a fascinating history—when planting the vines, **old bullets** were found in many of the holes dug, suggesting the area was once used for target practice. The wine's name, **Tiratore**, meaning "marksman" in Italian, reflects this unique history and Bilancia's aim to craft a Chardonnay that hits its mark with precision.

Winemaking

This vintage of Bilancia Tiratore Chardonnay is made using **100% hand-picked fruit**. The grapes are **whole-bunch pressed** and the juice is fermented with **indigenous yeast** in **French oak barriques**. The wine spends **11 months in oak** to develop complexity and depth, with no fining or cold stabilization, allowing for a more authentic expression of the vineyard's character.

Only **minimal sulfur** was added, and no other additives were used, ensuring the wine reflects its natural purity and balance between ripe fruit and oak influence.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Pale gold with a brilliant shine.
- **Aroma**: Expressive aromas of **citrus** and **stone fruit**, with underlying notes of **salinity** and subtle **oak** spices.
- **Palate**: On the palate, the wine is **taut and textured**, with flavors of **ripe citrus** (lemon, lime) and **stone fruit** (peach, apricot), balanced by a hint of salinity. The wine's **great structure** and precise acidity give it a refreshing length and a lingering, elegant finish.
- **Finish**: Long and clean, with a subtle interplay of **fruit** and **mineral** notes.

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Did You Know?

The name **Tiratore**, meaning "marksman" in Italian, was inspired by the discovery of old bullets during the vineyard planting at la collina. This unique history is reflected in the wine's label and speaks to the precision with which Bilancia aims to craft their flagship Chardonnay.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Pan-seared scallops with lemon butter**: The wine's acidity and citrus flavors enhance the richness of the scallops and the brightness of the lemon butter.
- **Roast chicken with thyme**: The Chardonnay's structure and subtle oak notes complement the savory flavors of roast chicken and herbs.
- **Grilled lobster with garlic butter**: The wine's salinity and citrus notes balance the sweetness of the lobster and the richness of the garlic butter.
- **Pasta with white truffle oil**: The earthy character of truffle oil pairs beautifully with the wine's stone fruit and mineral-driven profile.



Robert Parker (RP) : 97 Points (2020)

The 2020 Tiratore Chardonnay is darker in color than the 2022 and 2021 tasted beside it. On the nose, there's a cavalcade of white spice, star anise, fennel, clove, jasmine tea and even licorice. Nice. In the mouth, the wine is electrified by scintillating acidity, which helps the fruit really settle onto the tongue and allows the phenolics to create a wide web of texture that coats the palate. This is gently chewy and totally composed. Excellent. This shows what a good vintage with some time in bottle will do. Yes. 13.5% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.



James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2019)

A very composed and complex chardonnay with fresh peach and grapefruit, as well as almond and hazelnut. Complex and exuberant style. The palate has a very plush, fleshy and cooly composed style with ripe peach and pear and a spicy, nutty finish.