

Golan Heights Winery

A refined and expressive Chardonnay revealing the high-altitude elegance of Israel's Odem Vineyard, where organic viticulture meets Burgundian precision.

GOLAN HEIGHTS WINERY



Yarden Chardonnay Odem 2024

, Israel

Region and Vineyards

The Yarden Chardonnay Odem Organic Vineyard 2022 originates from the Odem Vineyard , located at nearly 1,200 metres above sea level in the northern Golan Heights, within the Galilee appellation . This volcanic plateau is the coldest winegrowing region in Israel, known for its dramatic diurnal shifts, winter snowfall, and well-drained basalt soils. These high-altitude conditions are ideally suited to growing Chardonnay with vibrant acidity and nuanced expression.

Planted in 1989 and certified organic since 1998 , the vineyard is a benchmark for sustainable viticulture in Israel. Its combination of elevation, organic farming, and volcanic terroir allows for slow, even ripening. The result is fruit of outstanding aromatic purity and structural finesse, producing a Chardonnay of depth, tension, and elegance.

Winemaking

This wine is made exclusively from Chardonnay grapes grown in the Odem Vineyard. Under the guidance of Victor Schoenfeld , winemaking focuses on preserving freshness while building complexity. After whole-cluster pressing, fermentation and aging take place in French oak barrels for seven months, with the wine remaining sur lie to enhance texture and richness.

A careful balance of oak influence and natural fruit character defines the style. Partial malolactic fermentation and lees stirring contribute creaminess, while the wine maintains brisk acidity and mineral clarity. With 14.5% alcohol , a pH of 3.33 , and total acidity of 6.3 g/L , the profile is both generous and vibrant. The wine is approachable now but will evolve gracefully for up to eight years from vintage.

Tasting Notes

- Color : Pale gold with green reflections, showing clarity and youthful brightness.
- Aroma : Expressive notes of ripe lemon, yellow pear , and pineapple , accented by hints of white blossom, baking spice, and flint .
- Palate : Full-bodied yet finely balanced, offering layered citrus and orchard fruit, subtle toast, and a long, mineral finish driven by tension and freshness.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Chardonnay

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The Odem Vineyard is the highest commercial vineyard in Israel and among the few to be farmed organically since the 1990s. Its unique combination of altitude, volcanic soil , and sustainable farming makes it one of the most distinctive Chardonnay sites in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- Grilled sardines with mint and almonds : the wine's acidity cuts through the richness, while the herbal lift echoes its aromatic complexity.
- Crispy chicken thighs with Chardonnay cream sauce : enhances the wine's round texture and barrel-derived spice.
- Creamy garlic parmesan risotto : complements the wine's fullness and highlights its citrusy lift.
- Poached lobster with butter and lemon zest : a luxurious match for the wine's balance of creaminess and mineral edge.