

SAINT CLAIR  
MARLBOROUGH

*Pioneer Block*  
SAINT CLAIR  
FAMILY ESTATE

## Saint Clair

A refined and expressive Marlborough Chardonnay, seamlessly balancing citrus vibrancy with nutty complexity and creamy oak.

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### Pioneer Block 10 Twin Hills Chardonnay 2021

Marlborough, New Zealand

#### Region and Vineyards

The Pioneer Block 10 Twin Hills Chardonnay 2021 originates from a carefully selected vineyard site located in the **Southern Valleys subregion of Marlborough**, nestled between two low-lying foothills. This **flat and well-exposed site** benefits from a warm daytime climate balanced by cool nights, enhancing diurnal temperature variation. These conditions allow for optimal ripening while retaining natural acidity, crucial for Chardonnay's aromatic purity and tension.

The soils here are **clay-based alluvials**, which retain water and promote steady vine growth. Due to the naturally vigorous nature of Chardonnay in this region, vineyard teams apply careful **crop thinning and canopy management** to maintain vine balance and achieve flavour concentration. This specific microclimate and soil profile contribute a **distinct richness and structure** to the wine, setting Twin Hills apart among Marlborough Chardonnays.

#### Winemaking

The winemaking process begins with **partial hand-harvesting**, followed by gentle **whole-bunch pressing** to preserve the vineyard's character. Fermentation took place entirely in **French oak barrels**, 33% of which were new, using carefully selected yeast strains to express fruit purity while allowing the wood to add complexity.

The wine underwent full **malolactic fermentation**, which softens acidity and contributes to the creamy mouthfeel. Aging continued for **nine months on fine lees**, with regular bâtonnage to build weight, texture, and depth. Only the finest barrels were chosen for the final blend, ensuring **precision, balance, and elegance**. The resulting wine shows 13% alcohol, 5.7 g/L total acidity, and a pH of 3.34—indicative of freshness with richness.

Alcohol :13,00 %

Composition: 100% Chardonnay



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# Pioneer Block 10 Twin Hills Chardonnay 2021

## Tasting Notes

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- **Color:** Pale straw
- **Aroma:** Preserved lemon, sweet oak, roasted almond and a hint of struck flint
- **Palate:** Full and rounded with flavours of ripe citrus, roasted hazelnut, and a subtle toasty oak note. The nine months on lees imparts a creamy texture and fine tannin framework

## Did you know?

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The "Pioneer Block" series from Saint Clair highlights **micro-parcels with unique terroir signatures** across Marlborough. Block 10, "Twin Hills", is named after the two distinct foothills flanking the vineyard. This focused single-block approach enables the estate to capture and showcase **terroir-specific nuances** in small-batch wines.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

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- **Seared chicken breast with pine nut and herb salad:** Enhances the wine's creamy richness and complements its nutty notes.
- **Linguine with lemon butter and scallops:** Echoes the citrus core and elevates the wine's roundness.
- **Grilled corn and ricotta ravioli with sage butter:** Harmonizes with the toasted oak and almond character.
- **Roasted cauliflower with tahini and lemon zest:** A fine vegetarian match for the wine's leesy texture and preserved citrus aromatics.

