

Te Mata

From Te Mata's historic vineyards, Elston 2022 captures the brilliance of a Hawke's Bay summer, where precision winemaking meets a luminous and layered Chardonnay style.

Te MATA
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Elston Chardonnay 2022

Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

Region and Vineyards

Hawke's Bay, on the eastern coast of New Zealand's North Island, is one of the country's oldest and most esteemed wine regions. Its maritime climate, with long warm summers and mild autumns, provides excellent conditions for the slow ripening of Chardonnay, enhancing complexity and natural acidity. The region's soils are varied, ranging from river gravels to clay and limestone, offering winemakers an exceptional palette of terroirs.

The fruit for Elston Chardonnay 2022 is sourced exclusively from Te Mata Estate's own vineyards in the Woodthorpe Terraces, Bridge Pa Triangle, and Havelock Hills. These sites combine free-draining alluvial gravels with more elevated hillside plantings, balancing richness and tension. The vineyards are sustainably managed and estate-owned, ensuring precise viticultural control. This **estate-grown** approach underscores the authenticity and consistency that Te Mata, established in 1896, has long championed.

Winemaking

Elston Chardonnay 2022 is made entirely from Chardonnay grapes, handpicked between February 20 and March 12. The winemaking philosophy combines traditional Burgundian influences with modern precision. Fermentation was split between stainless steel tanks and oak barrels: the tank component preserving **vibrant aromatics and fruit purity**, while the barrel portion added depth and complexity.

Partial malolactic fermentation softened the acidity and contributed to the creamy texture, while maturation in oak barrels introduced subtle notes of toast and brioche. The integration of these elements creates a wine that is layered, expressive, and true to both its terroir and vintage. With 13% alcohol, 5.9 g/L of total acidity, and a pH of 3.58, it maintains excellent balance between ripeness and freshness.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Chardonnay

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Vibrant white-gold with youthful luminosity.
- **Aroma**: Fresh lemon blossom and concentrated white peach, with lifted florals complemented by hints of toast and brioche from barrel fermentation.
- **Palate**: Ripe stone fruits and creamy mascarpone richness mingle with notes of macadamia nut, all carried by precise acidity. A flick of salinity enhances the lingering, refreshing finish.

Did you know?

Te Mata Estate is New Zealand's oldest continuously operating winery, founded in 1896, and remains **family-owned** to this day. Elston Chardonnay, first produced in 1984, was one of New Zealand's pioneering barrel-fermented Chardonnays, setting a benchmark for premium expressions of the variety.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled crayfish with lemon butter**: The wine's freshness and subtle oak complement the sweetness and richness of the shellfish.
- **Roast chicken with herbs and garlic**: The creamy palate and nutty notes mirror the succulence of roast poultry.
- **Seared scallops with cauliflower purée**: The interplay of salinity and ripe fruit balances the sweet, delicate flavours of scallops.
- **Pork tenderloin with apple and sage**: The wine's acidity cuts through the richness of the meat while harmonising with apple's natural sweetness.

92

Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2022)

The 2022 Elston Chardonnay is mineral and taut in the mouth, with a fleshy pillow of fruit draped over it. It is ripe and soft, but the acidity is tense and salty. There is a lightness of touch here, which is very attractive. There are white flowers, yellow/cream-colored fruit and pretty orchard inflections (both flowers and fruit) through the finish. There's a really nice flavor draw across the palate and through the finish. 13.5% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.

93 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 93 Points (2021)

Expressive nose of white grapefruit, white pears, sea shells, nutmeg, cloves and dried lemons. It's medium- to full-bodied with a creamy and layered texture. Vibrant. Lovely sweet fruit and integrated subtle spice notes. Drink or hold.