



TOLPUDDLE

VINEYARD

2012 TOLPUDDLE VINEYARD CHARDONNAY REVIEWS & ACCOLADES

- SEPTEMBER 2022
- NATASHA HUGHES MW,
CLUB OENOLOGIQUE UK
- Of all the Tolpuddle Chardonnays, this is the one in which the oak is most apparent. There's a core of bright primary tangerine and peach fruit and some tertiary dried fruit notes, but the hallmark of this wine is the laser-like acidity that is slightly out of balance overall.
- 91 POINTS**
- JANCIS ROBINSON
JANCISROBINSON.COM
- Very good year (= good flowering) with reasonable yields. They took the grapes to the Bay of Fires for pressing, and brought the juice to Adelaide for vinification. 'Every time it moved we were essentially racking the wine without wanting to' ... so they lost some lees. Malolactic conversion was problematic. It was so 'traumatised' it remained tart.*
- Super-fresh, 'green' nose, and on the palate just a bit too tart for comfort. Will it ever come round?! A little astringent too. Points the way to the new era of Oz Chardonnay but not a great pleasure to drink.
- 15.5+ POINTS**
- NOVEMBER 2014
- JANCIS ROBINSON,
JANCISROBINSON.COM
- Light, fresh, green and with good appetising fruit. Buying this vineyard was possibly the cleverest thing that Shaw + Smith ever did. Great precision and excitement. Great Puligny?
- 18 POINTS**
- SEPTEMBER 2014
- CHRISTELLE GUIBERT,
DECANTER - INSPIRED
TASTING, LONDON
- A lot seems to be happening in Tasmania and this new wine from Shaw + Smith in Adelaide Hills just shows the potential the region has. This is an impressive Chardonnay that will challenge many top Burgundy producers. It has finesse and delicate green apple and citrus notes with hint of cashew nuts. The palate is very subtle and classy with a crisp acidity; nice toasty oak with some stone fruit characters. This is the first vintage and already very promising.
- AUGUST 2014
- JAMES HALLIDAY,
AUSTRALIAN WINE
COMPANION 2014
- There is a deliberate touch of struck match; awesome, layered fruit intensity and length is the X factor which has devoured the oak.
- 96 POINTS**
- JULY 2014
- TYSON STELZER,
100 OF THE BEST, WBM
TRADE
- From this famed site first planted for sparkling base, the specifications of this wine look like sparkling on paper, such is its linear precision and crystalline purity, taut, honed acid cut and impeccably projected citrus line.
- 96 POINTS**
- JOANNA SIMON,
ON WINE AND FOOD
(SOURCE)
- 'Newcomer of the year'
- Almost unnervingly understated at first, but then the intensity and purity of the Chardonnay shows itself – and stays. Australia's answer to Chablis. A debut wine from new owners (Shaw & Smith) of a mature vineyard.



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ANTHONY ROSE,
THE WINE GANG
"WINE OF THE YEAR"

This is the newest of new wave Australian chardonnays from Martin Shaw of Shaw and Smith renown. It's a dry Aussie white from Tasmania's Coal River Valley that wears its clothes so lightly that you wonder at first if it's the emperor's new clothes. Looking at its pale gold hue and then nosing its delicately refreshing lemony aroma, it's hard not to be drawn into the artlessness of such intensely fresh and pure textured citrusy fruit without the baggage of lees-stirring or oak-fermented nuttiness that strive for Burgundian imitation. This is no imitation but rather just itself, a confident, intense dry white in Australia-meets-Chablis mould, revealing the vineyard source and the purity of fruit that that entails, a Michelangelo's David to the many Goliaths out there.

96 POINTS

LESTER JESBERG,
WINEWISE

This is a delightfully subdued chardonnay which, like the Dawson & James that topped our international tasting, gives an insight into the bright future of chardonnay in Tasmania. The nose teases, showing hints of grapefruit, white nectarine, nuts and butter. The palate offers a lesson in fineness and texture, finishing long and acid-fresh. Outstanding

RICHARD HEMMING,
JANCISROBINSON.COM
(SOURCE)

Lean, restrained - almost muted. Lovely acidic line - very naturally integrated. Plenty of pithy structure too. Lime fruit - almost reminiscent of Riesling, in fact. Very well crafted, but very formative. Worth keeping an eye on.

17 POINTS

DECEMBER 2013

CHRIS SHANAHAN,
"THE TOP 10 AUSTRALIAN
RED AND WHITE WINES OF
THE YEAR." CANBERRA TIMES

Its first release shows a combination of restraint, elegance and power - all hallmarks of top-end, cool-grown chardonnay. Intense grapefruit and white-peach-like varietal flavours underpin a creamy textured, dazzlingly fresh chardonnay of great finesse. It has the potential to evolve for some years.

96 POINTS

HUON HOOKE,
HUONHOOKE.COM
(SOURCE)

OCTOBER 2013

Very light yellow hue, the aromas subtle and restrained - indeed, the wine is restrained in all respects. The bouquet has great subtlety and harmony of aromas, with elements of creamy lees, cashew and white peach, oak not at all evident even when very chilled. The palate is tremendously fine and long, with a great thread of natural-tasting acidity that runs the full length of the palate and draws out the finish. Seamless, beautifully poised and fine.

96 POINTS



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- NOVEMBER 2013
MAX ALLEN,
'MARTYRS' BLOOD RUNS
IN THE RED' WEEKEND
AUSTRALIAN A PLUS,
FOOD & WINE
The 2012 Chardonnay has beautiful complexity - flavours of citrus and minerals and nuts - and great precision.
- NOVEMBER 2013
TONY LOVE,
'SIX OF THE BEST' TASTE,
DAILY TELEGRAPH
Top of the Class
From the Adelaide Hills team at Shaw + Smith, whose success with their M3 Chardonnay is a celebration in itself, this new Tasmanian outing encourages glorious fruit to shine around the faintest of oak and yeasty influences, its grapefruit tang a highlight that lifts out of juicy, squeezed nectarine. Note, too, its shape and structure - crunch, mineral acidity and oozing fruit.
4.5 STARS
- NOVEMBER 2013
WINSOR DOBBIN,
OFF THE VINE, SUNDAY
One of the most impressive debut wines I've ever seen, this is a classic cool-climate Tasmanian chardonnay without a hair out of place. It's a cliché to say it is Burgundian in style, but it is also true - it is taut wine that's a tribute to its terroir; beautifully poised and linear but with citrus, Granny Smith and flint notes, a hint of oatmeal and lashings of bright acidity. Oak merely adds structure and is completely unobtrusive. This wine is youthful but already beautiful.
- NOVEMBER 2013
FERGUS MCGHIE,
DRINK, CANBERRA TIMES
CANBERRA
(SOURCE)
The Chardonnay is powerful and textured with fine stone fruit and citrus character. There's a real lemon zing to the palate but it's perfectly balanced by some creamier overtones. I suspect there's a portion of wild ferment in the mix. This is a bright, clean wine but there are touches of savoury flint and caramel oak. I'd love to see it with a little more time but unfortunately quality chardonnay of this calibre seldom stays untouched in my cellar.
- SEPTEMBER 2013
JAMIE GOODE,
WINEANORAK.COM
(SOURCE)
Very bright and fresh, this is a lean, lemony, mineral style of Chardonnay with keen acidity and some subtle toasty notes. Remarkable analysis figures of pH 3.1 and TA of 8.1 show just how lean and bracing this wine is. There's a little bit of matchstick minerality here. Tight, fresh and precise with some waxy, pithy complexity. Quite Chablis-like.
94 POINTS
- OCTOBER 2013
BEN KNIGHT,
BENANDWINE.COM
(SOURCE)
Pale straw colour, lemon pith on the nose, intense and heralds a piecing palate. Faint barrel notes and wood spice. The palate is electric, some say nervy, but whichever word you use, it's thrilling. Lemon sherbet, rind, stones and a dusting of a brown barrel spice and silage. There is a delicate creaminess, easily overcome by the incredible acidity. What I like about this wine is the intensity and old world acid line, as Martin Shaw said, think "Puligny or Chablis". The acidity is supported by a weight and power that makes it work really well. This is quite something.



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ANDREW GRAHAM,
OZWINEREVIEW.COM.AU
(SOURCE)

OCTOBER 2013

Sourced from vines that date back to 1988 (for certain parcels), the fruit was handpicked and transported to the Bay of Fires winery, where it was then juiced and sent up to the Shaw + Smith facility in the Adelaide Hills for fermentation and maturation. Whole bunch pressed, it went into 30% new oak (the rest 2nd and 3rd fill) and only 20% of the wine went through malo. This has a 'long lean line of acid' according to Shaw + Smith's David LeMire MW, and even he was a little apprehensive about releasing this wine so young 'maybe October 2014 is when we really need to bring it out!'. TA 8.1, pH 3.1, 13% alc.

Very delicate nose - lean and just slightly nutty with a real Shaw & Smith house style to the lees. Long and lean palate moves between being too lean and a little oaky when cold, and then a story of acid-driven freshness and balance as it warms up. Is it too lean? Maybe just a little, but you'd expect that to improve with more time in bottle, and the palate feels perfectly ripe, even and long otherwise. Classy stuff.

18.5/20, 94/100 POINTS

ROD PROPERJOHN,
'LIFE BY THE DROP'
SUBIACO POST, PERTH
(SOURCE)

OCTOBER 2013

Austere is an accurate description for this wine. It's lean and long on the palate, bone dry and is focused right through to the pebble-stone minerality and sabre-like acidity on the finish. It needs time. Thoroughly enjoyable with cold-smoked ocean trout where the fish takes over initially and then the wine's acidity cuts back on the trout's oiliness at the finish.

17.5 POINTS