



TOLPUDDLE

VINEYARD

2019 TOLPUDDLE VINEYARD CHARDONNAY REVIEWS & ACCOLADES

NICK BULLIED MW,
PETER BOURNE, JEFF BYRNE
AND NADJA WALLINGTON,
GOURMET TRAVELLER WINE

OCTOBER 2021

Had us all clamouring with comments. It's intense, with fresh lemon and funky complexity, the nose almost aromatic, the palate fine and fresh. Bourne thought it, "A tip-top chardonnay with wondrous purity and poise. Abundant citrus and white stone fruit aromas framed by classy oak. There's plenty of power here with the high-toned spine of acid effortlessly carrying the finish." Byrne added: "Perfumed, floral, funky, apple and stone fruit. Loads of power." Tip-top indeed!

98 POINTS

WANDS
THE INTERNATIONAL WINE
AND SPIRITS MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2021

No. 12 Australian Chardonnay

INTERNATIONAL WINE
CHALLENGE 2021

MAY 2021

Smokey roasted and toasted bread creamy cedar notes beautifully balanced with fresh lemon flavours and mouth watering acidity.

GOLD, 95 POINTS

LESTER JESBERG,
WINE WISE

MARCH 2021

The intense funky grapefruit/white peach nose is a stunner. The palate benefits from balanced French oak, and is creamy and long, with a fine talc-like grip. A brilliant chardonnay.

MORGAN DUNN,
WINEPILOT

JANUARY 2021

Shaw + Smith took control of the site, planted exclusively to pinot noir and chardonnay, in Tassie's South East in 2011 and have since then been turning out some pretty phenomenal wine. Under vineyard manager Carlos Souris the team continue to make astounding progressions in soil and vine health.

I've seen most of the previous releases of the Tolpuddle chardonnay - this may be the best yet.

The oak is there but it's pretty and fresh and ready to go - think multigrain toast slapped with soft butter. The nose shows mandarin spray, lime peel, lemongrass and tangerine with some richer apricot and white peach emboldening it. Crystals of minerals and pure fruit oils seems to form on the palate before melting into this invigorating, alive acidity. It's generous and lengthy but with a delicacy of touch. Like drinking the morning sunlight on seawater.

Regrettably, the pinot-noir was slightly affected by smoke taint in 2019, leaving the chardonnay to fly solo. Still, Tolpuddle is one of the country's great vineyards, with an easy north-easterly slope which I've heard described as 'Burgundian', a moniker I can't abide. I prefer to call it 'Tasmanian'.



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RAY JORDAN,
WINEPILOT.COM

NOVEMBER 2020

In just years this wonderful wine has emerged as one of Australia's chardonnays. This vineyard is not far from Richmond in Tasmania, and While its viticultural history is quite short it has links to the earliest years of European settlement in the region, having been worked originally by one Tolpuddle Martyrs who fled England in the early part of the nineteenth century.

Owners Michael Hill Smith and Martin Shaw bought the place in 2011 with a clear intention to establish a great single vineyard. You could say: job done, but I suspect even greater things await. This is another belter.

Minerally, flinty gun smoke and char merge into the pure and pristine fruit characters on the nose. Then the delivers with its deep concertation and highly sustained length. It is textured and strikes a great balance of fruit and oak, having spent nine months in barrel with gentle stirring before taking a short lazy rest on lees. This is a classy exceptional chardonnay sourced from Coal River Valley.

98 POINTS

JAMES SUCKLING'S TOP 100

NOVEMBER 2020

The has power and complexity and the right grade of reductive flair, overlaid on fresh grapefruit and peach with flint and wet chalk, as well as attractive oak in the background. The palate has mouthwatering white-peach and lemon flavours with a deep draw of acidity that drives the finish in really deep, precise and fresh. Lip-smacking resolve here. Elegance, poise and whip-cracking freshness. Drink over the next six years. Number 55.

98 POINTS

JAMES HALLIDAY,
2020 JAMES HALLIDAY
TOP 100, WINE COMPANION

NOVEMBER 2020

A strikingly beautiful chardonnay with its flowery bouquet bearing witness to the sheer purity of the incredibly long palate, the full palette of chardonnay flavours on display. Nectarine, white peach and grapefruit zest are sewn together by an invisible silver thread of acidity.

98 POINTS

HUON HOOKE,
THE REAL REVIEW

NOVEMBER 2020

Medium to light-yellow colour, with a complex young-wine bouquet of smoky struck-flint and roasted hazelnuts, the sulfides having an almost electrical-short overtone. It's tremendously intense on the tongue, refined and bright, penetrating and tensioned, with crisp, cleansing dryness that persists for a very long time. Grapefruit and lemon fruit flavours linger long insistent. A great chardonnay.

CAMPBELL MATTINSON,
THE WINE FRONT

OCTOBER 2020

It presents as both powerful and fine. It's a slashing chardonnay with flint, white peach, meal, caramel and lemon curd flavours charming through. It's carrying quite a bit of oak but it's up to it and then some. It's another ripping release.



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STUART KNOX,
THE REAL REVIEW

OCTOBER 2020

Pale lemon tones in the glass. The nose leaps with chalk and seashell minerality over a hint of gun-smoke. Such fine bones! It dances across the tongue with lift and life yet the intensity of that fruit cannot be ignored. It carries bright lemon drops, karakalla and sea mist notes with chalk and shell mineral notes entwined. Long, and longer it goes culminating in another burst of refreshing acid and a complexing fuzz of phenolics.

96 POINTS

NICK STOCK,
JAMESSUCKLING.COM

SEPTEMBER 2020

This has power and complexity and the right grade of reductive flair, overlaid on fresh yellow grapefruit and peach with flint and wet chalk, as well as attractive oak in the background. The palate has mouthwatering white-peach and lemon flavours with a deep draw of acidity that drives the finish in really deep, precise and fresh. Lip-smacking resolve here. Elegance, poise and whip-cracking freshness. Drink over the next six years.

98 POINTS

ANGUS HUGHSON,
WINEPILOT.COM

AUGUST 2020

A very impressive and seamless Chardonnay that is all class from start to finish. It bursts from the glass with lemons meringue, peach skin and floral aromas that are tight, compact and incredibly focussed, all supported by flinty, spicy oak complexity. The palate is equally explosive - bright and vibrant fruit that is embryonic with crystal clear fruit purity and lifted by savoury smoky, flinty leesy complexity. There is classic creamy chardonnay texture would up tight by a bolt of Tasmanian acidity to provide the most complete Tolpuddle Chardonnay yet. Immense length tops it off beautifully - a clear candidate for this year's top chardonnay.

98 POINTS

DAVID SLY,
DECANTER

AUGUST 2020

The filigree structure is a study in delicate balance between pure varietal character, site differentiation and winemaker vision. Lean and bony, its fruit is bound in a taut frame of citrus-tinged acidity, yet the finely drawn flavours show unusual intensity and persistence. Keep looking beyond the pastel sketch of white peach and lemon, and deep down there's struck flint, a hint of seasoned oak, a lick of wet granite - nothing overt, nothing that doesn't add to the sum of the parts.

97 POINTS