TERRA SANCTA ESTATE

RIVERBLOCK CHARDONNAY

WINE VINTAGE: 2013

APPELLATION:
Bannockburn, Central Otago

VINEYARD/BLOCK:
Terra vineyard: Riverblock

VARIETALS:
Chardonnay

ALCOHOL:
13.5%

RESIDUAL SUGAR:
<1g/l (Dry)

pH:
3.23

TA:
6.30 g/l

RELEASE DATE:
May 2014

TASTING NOTE:

Beautiful citrus and honeysuckle aromas on the nose are the gateway to a cascade of mineral and exotic flavours that linger long on the palate. A wine with wonderful focus and rich texture that is complemented by a finely contoured body showing the genuine grace of a cool climate Chardonnay grown in a very special place.

CELLARING NOTE: Up to 6 years.

VINEYARD NOTE:

The Terra Sancta Estate on Felton Road is unique - it is home to the oldest vines in the Cromwell Basin, with ancient glacial soils of schist and flinty quartz. Extremely rare for Central Otago, a seam of limestone runs through Riverblock. Nestled above the glacial Kawarau River, Riverblock Chardonnay was planted in 2005 with three premium clones for crafting exquisite wines that express the purity of the site.

HARVEST NOTE:

The 2013 season had a very cool start leading to a late but healthy flowering. Veraison was unusually protracted despite the drier and warmer than usual February/March. Early picking of our Chardonnay ensured we captured the true essence of our site - finesse, minerality, and the wonderful earthy flavours that come uniquely from this special part of Bannockburn.

VINIFICATION NOTE:

We hand harvested and whole bunch pressed the three clones of Chardonnay over a period of three days in early April. Fermented by wild yeasts on full solids in large format oak barrels with a long, indigenous malolactic fermentation, this is a serious Chardonnay with great persistence and elegance.