
**TERRA SANCTA ESTATE
RIVERBLOCK
CHARDONNAY**



VINTAGE: 2014

APPELLATION:
Bannockburn, Central Otago

VINEYARD/BLOCK:
Terra Sancta Estate: Riverblock

VARIETALS:
Chardonnay

ALCOHOL:
13.5%

RESIDUAL SUGAR:
<1g/l (Dry)

pH:
3.17

TA:
6.9 g/l

RELEASE DATE:
May 2015

TASTING NOTE

Displaying vibrant floral notes and mandarin on the nose, the hallmark minerality and concentration of Riverblock are immediately evident on the palate. Citrus and pear flavours combine with precise acidity to create a refined Chardonnay of elegance and balance. With the texture of a classic Chablis and a finish of great length and energy, Riverblock Chardonnay expresses the beauty and sophistication of cold climate Chardonnay from a very special place.

CELLARING NOTE: Up to 6 years.

VINEYARD:

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. Very rare for Central Otago and adding to the complexity of the soil of this site, a dense seam of limestone runs through Riverblock. This special one hectare block of Chardonnay vines was planted in 2005 with three premium clones that ideally express the unique mineral rich soils in which they are planted.

HARVEST:

The 2014 season had a warm start producing an even and healthy canopy and successful flowering in Riverblock. Ideal dry conditions during January reduced both the berry size and the yield. A warm, dry autumn resulted in near-perfect fruit. The decision to pick early, on 2 April, not only maintained the fruit's concentration and quality, but captured its bright acidity.

VINIFICATION:

Hand harvested and whole bunch pressed, the three clones of Chardonnay went to barrel with little settling and were fermented by yeast indigenous to the vineyard. Riverblock is matured over winter in large format oak puncheons before completing a naturally occurring secondary fermentation in the warmer spring conditions. Going almost untouched in the winery, Riverblock speaks clearly of its soils and its origins.