

Chardonnay all day

Joelle Thomson
presents a selection
of delicious new and
recent releases, and
great aged whites
crafted from the
world's most popular
white wine grape...





RRP \$15 - \$24.99

2022 Maravedi Chardonnay Airen

RRP \$16.99

Mineral

While Chardonnay needs no introduction, Airen is a relatively unknown white grape, despite being incredibly popular in Spain where it is usually used as a base to make brandy. The two are blended together in this attractively affordable wine with its ripe white stonefruit flavours. Maravedi is the name of an ancient Spanish coin. This wine is certified organic and sealed with a screwcap.

2023 Spade Oak Voysey Chardonnay

RRP \$19.99

Wine2Trade

Gisborne-based winemaker Steve Voysey brings out the best in Chardonnay by dialling up its smooth flavours of ripe nectarine and Golden Queen peach, adding nuances of creamy appeal in this appealingly priced, medium-bodied wine.

2022 Leefield Station Chardonnay

RRP \$21.99

Marisco

Is it possible to make a wine that tastes too good? If so, here it is. This Chardonnay has crisp, fresh acidity leading into a creamy, textured mouthfeel in a wine with a medium body and long finish. It offers exceptionally good value for money for this quality.

2022 Saint Clair Origin Chardonnay

RRP \$22

Negociants

A creamy, medium-bodied dry white that puts Marlborough's best foot forward in a smooth, soft expression of Chardonnay. Very good value for money and such a consistent wine every year. Great buying from the Ibbotson family, the founders and owners of Saint Clair Family Estate.

2022 Main Divide Chardonnay

RRP \$22.99

EuroVintage

Main Divide Chardonnay is an old favourite with a fresh new twist. The North Canterbury wine has a beautiful balance of ripe citrus and nectarine aromas, flinty and fresh herb flavours, and a full body with delicious complexity. Hand-picked grapes were whole bunch pressed into large French oak puncheons and fermented with natural yeasts to make a stunning wine, especially at this price.

2022 Tony Bish Fat & Sassy Chardonnay

RRP \$22.99

Tony Bish Wines

Chardonnista Tony Bish made this smooth and accessibly priced Chardonnay with white wine lovers in mind, honing in on the best qualities that Chardonnay has to offer. A combination of small barriques, large oak, and stainless steel all work in tandem here to create a medium-bodied wine with aromas of ripe white peach and citrusy acidity adding depth and a long finish. Very good value for money.

2023 Clearview White Caps Chardonnay

RRP \$23.99

Clearview Estate

A big, bold and buttery Chardonnay from Hawke's Bay's Clearview Estate. It has ripe peachy flavours that deliver the weight and depth of taste that lovers of bold Chardonnays look for. If you like creamy, smooth, full-bodied Chardonnay, this is it.

2023 Jules Taylor Marlborough Chardonnay

RRP \$23.99

Hancocks

Outstandingly crisp, citrusy purity of flavour comes through in every delicious sip of this great white. Chardonnay is one of this country's (and Marlborough's) best-kept secrets because the best (wines like this one) can take on Chablis from village level to premier cru. If this sounds like a bold claim, I encourage you to try it – buy the wines and taste them blind.

2022 Lake Chalice Raptor Chardonnay

RRP \$24.99

Hancocks

A creamy, smooth, and medium-bodied wine with aromas of flinty, green herbs. A piercingly fresh style that would match well with fresh seafood.

RRP \$25 - \$29.99

2022 Cave de Lugny Mâcon-Villages Chardonnay

RRP \$27.99

Maison Vauron

France is the home of Chardonnay, and Mâcon (in the south of Burgundy) is home to many of the best-value dry whites in the world. This smooth, lightly creamy wine is made by the Cave de Lugny, a cooperative of over 250 winemakers in the Mâcon region, where warm rolling hills are home to Chardonnay vines and great value bottles, such as this one.

2022 Whitehaven Marlborough Chardonnay

RRP \$27.99

Whitehaven

Whitehaven Chardonnay is one of the best dry wines from Marlborough and has flavours of bright, zesty ripe grapefruit in a smooth, creamy body, which makes it a sensational match with roast chicken and all the trimmings. A great white at a stunningly attractive price.

2021 Abel Tasman Chardonnay

RRP \$28.99

Abel

This is the fourth vintage of this zesty, flinty and complex Chardonnay. It is made from hand-picked grapes grown on a five-hectare close-planted vineyard owned by Mark and Sophie McGill, along with James and Wendy Healy (Sophie's parents and co-founders of Dog Point Vineyards). Fermentation in 3,000 to 5,000 litre cives (large barrels) with 23 months ageing work together to keep this wine tight, fresh, full-bodied and characterful with beautifully balanced acidity driving the structure and taste. A stellar wine from the Tasman region.

2022 Spy Valley Marlborough Chardonnay

RRP \$28.99

Red+White Cellar

Top-value buying from one of the best-known wineries in the country's biggest wine region. This is a blend of grapes grown in Marlborough and fermented in stainless steel to retain fresh, fruit-forward aromas of ripe grapefruit and white peach, all carried in a full body. Very good drinking now or in the next two to three years.

2021 Marisco The King's Bastard Chardonnay

RRP \$29.99

Marisco

If you want to know how far New Zealand Chardonnay has come over the last 15 years, taste this excellent wine. It's made with grapes hand-picked from a range of vineyards in Marlborough, each one fermented separately and all whole bunch pressed with a portion in new French oak. This wine is smooth, silky, creamy, and soft with structural qualities of vibrant acidity from cool night time temperatures.

2022 Astrolabe Marlborough Chardonnay

RRP \$29.99

Astrolabe

Winemaker Simon Waghorn's first and enduring wine love affair is with Chardonnay, which comes through in this creamy, dreamy, dry, and citrusy Chardonnay. It has all the hallmarks of a great white – from its full body and appealing aromas of cultured butter, through to its lightly toasted oak nuances and ripe citrus flavours. Whole cluster fermentation with wild yeasts in barrel followed by lees ageing in French oak with lees stirring all make this wine an exceptional Chardonnay at a very affordable price.

RRP \$30 - \$39.99

2022 Nga Waka Martinborough Chardonnay

RRP \$30

Hancocks

An excellent wine from Martinborough winemaker Roger Parkinson, who founded Nga Waka and built its stellar reputation on outstanding white wines. This wine in particular offers exceptional value for money for a classic, dry, full-bodied, creamy Chardonnay that is nicely balanced by underlying crisp acidity.

2022 Wairau River Reserve Chardonnay

RRP \$30

Federal Merchants

This is a top Chardonnay from an old winery, Wairau River Wines, which was founded and is still owned by the Rose family. This reserve Chardonnay is a full-bodied dry wine with creamy aromas and a lingering finish from refreshing citrusy acidity.

2021 Čuvar Iris Chardonnay

RRP \$31.99

Fistonich Family Vineyards

Sir George Fistonich's new family wine project is Čuvar (pronounced "choo-var"). This is the Croatian word for 'the guardian', which is a great description of Fistonich's role in the New Zealand wine industry. This wine is a beautifully layered creamy Chardonnay with a hint of cedary spice, ripe nectarine taste and memorably lingering flavours.

2022 Holly Chardonnay

RRP \$32.99

Matahiwi Estate

There is instant appeal in this Hawke's Bay wine's creamy aromas and hint of flint, which lead into a dry, full-bodied Chardonnay with peachy flavours. Winemaker Miles Dineen strikes an appealing balance in this wine with its smooth texture and fresh citrusy aromas and acidity, which give this wine depth and lingering taste.





2017 Spy Valley Envoy Johnson Chardonnay

RRP \$34.99

Red+White Cellar

Envoy is at the top of Spy Valley's wine tree and made only from select grape varieties and only in certain years, hence this current release is now a seven-year-old, beautifully rounded expression of Chardonnay. Remarkably fresh in flavour with buttery aromas balanced by developed notes of citrusy lemon curd wrapped in a full-bodied wine with a long, fresh finish.

2021 Mount Edward Chardonnay

RRP \$34.99

Mineral

Central Otago Chardonnay is one of New Zealand's best kept wine secrets, and now you know, check out this full-bodied, insanely fresh tasting dry white that captures everything we know and love about Chardonnay – plus some. Silky, rich in flavour and with a lively lightness in each lingering sip.

2022 Craggy Range Kidnapper's Chardonnay

RRP \$34.99

Vintners

The evocatively named Kidnapper's Chardonnay takes its name from Hawke's Bay's dramatic headland of Cape Kidnappers. It is made with grapes grown at Te Awanga, where the cool coastal breezes enhance Chardonnay's acidity and fresh flavours, translating here to a medium-bodied, crisp style with ripe peach aromas and complex layered aromas of cedar and spice.

2022 Holly South Series Chardonnay

RRP \$34.99

Matahiwi Estate

Matahiwi in the northern Wairarapa produces very good Chardonnay from its home region as well as further afield. This wine is made with grapes grown on site at Matahiwi Estate and it is a medium-bodied style with light notes of white peach and a touch of lemon.

2020 Settlement Chardonnay Marlborough

RRP \$35

Blanc

The Settlement Vineyard is one of the largest sites in Marlborough and home to a range of grapes, including the Chardonnay that makes this outstanding wine. Rich and fresh in taste with a superb balance of body, and citrus flavour (grapefruit and lemon curd) captured in a creamy, textured dry wine. Delicious and certified organic.

2021 Saint Clair Pioneer Block 10 Chardonnay

RRP \$35

Negociants

Marlborough Chardonnay plays second fiddle to the region's best known white, yet wines like this one beg the question: why? Smooth, full-bodied and full of flavour, this wine is the essence of great Chardonnay. It has all the creamy nuances from winemaker talent, but also the citrusy purity and ripe nectarine, grapefruit and gentle lemon flavours of great dry whites.

2021 Chard Farm Judge and Jury Chardonnay

RRP \$39

Chard Farm

Judge and Jury Chardonnay has long been one of Central Otago's great dry white wines and is named after a majestic rock formation near the winery. The grapes in this wine come from the just as evocatively named Tiger and Viper vineyards, and bring lively, fresh aromas of yuzu, lemon and grapefruit to a wine with a bright backbone of acidity that gives length and depth to every lingering sip.

2016 Giesen Organic Chardonnay

RRP \$39.99

Giesen

Giesen's certified organic Chardonnay tastes as fresh as a daisy with its bold aromas of creamy citrus, medium body and long finish. This wine is now eight years old and has evolved into a layered, complex dry white while retaining fresh youthful aromas and flavours.

RRP \$40 and above

2021 Te Kano Life Chardonnay

RRP \$40

Te Kano Estate

Te Kano is Māori for "the seed" and is a relatively new brand in Central Otago, based in Bannockburn where its exceptional winery (built from cantilevered shipping containers) overlooks the stunning arid landscape. This wine echoes the beauty of the region with its incredibly smooth flavours, verging on buttery but kept in check by Dave Sutton's restrained winemaking and the freshness of grapes harvested with impressively balanced acidity, which adds lingering flavours to each mouth-filling, silky sip.

2022 Saint Clair Omaka Reserve Chardonnay

RRP \$42
Negociants

This wine from Marlborough’s Omaka Valley expresses the structure and freshness that comes from the region’s Southern Valleys. Warm days and cool nights capture great structure, fresh acidity and ripe flavours, all of which are present and counted in this lovely wine.

2020 Pegasus Bay Chardonnay

RRP \$42.99
EuroVintage

A great, complex, layered South Island Chardonnay; one of New Zealand’s best. This is a commanding wine with depth of flavour: flinty, zesty, full of citrus purity and smooth, ripe peachy notes captured in a full-bodied dry and lingeringly flavoursome wine.

2020 Coney Wines Rabbit Chardonnay

RRP \$45
Coney Wines

Winemaker Lisa Coney takes her inspiration for Chardonnay from Chablis and this four-year-old wine delivers – big time. Dry, zesty and full-bodied, it expresses the bold acidity and vibrancy of a French classic in a cool climate wine made from grapes grown in Martinborough. Partial malolactic fermentation and regular lees stirring bring smooth, creamy textures to a bright, fresh tasting and full-bodied Chardonnay.

2022 Tony Bish Heartwood Chardonnay

RRP \$45.99
Tony Bish Wines

New Zealand’s king of Chardonnay, Tony Bish, makes this beautifully full-bodied, spicy, complex and layered classic from 100% Mendoza clone Chardonnay grapes grown in the Upper Dartmoor Valley and Bay View in Napier. Hand-picked grapes were nearly all fermented in barrel with 5% in a French oak ovum. The wine was aged for a year in 25% new Taransaud oak with regular lees stirring to add creamy nuances, while retaining the freshness and vibrancy for which Mendoza Chardonnays are known and loved.

2022 Palliser Estate Chardonnay

RRP \$47
Negociants

Palliser winemaker Guy McMaster makes one of Martinborough’s handful of top Chardonnays every year, such as this youthful, full-bodied, smooth dry white from 2022. Texturally delicious, complex and layered, it has creamy flavours underpinned by fresh acidity and spicy notes.

2020 Greystone Organic Chardonnay

RRP \$48.99
Red+White Cellar

Winemaker Dom Maxwell is adept at bringing out the best in North Canterbury Chardonnay, capturing its light, bright, fresh citrus flavours as well as those creamy smooth bells and whistles so beloved by white wine drinkers. This wine has layers of zingy freshness and is organically certified with BioGro NZ.

2021 Esk Valley Great Dirt Seabed Chardonnay

RRP \$49.99
Villa Maria

One of Hawke’s Bay’s great whites and always fermented with wild yeasts in French oak followed by almost a year in oak to build complexity, creamy aromas and spicy layers. A full-bodied style that makes a lovely match with roast chicken.

2021 Dog Point Chardonnay

RRP \$50
Red+White Cellar

Exciting flavours echo Chablis in this impressive Chardonnay from Marlborough, which expresses the region’s cool nights and warm days with citrus purity and ripe white peach, grapefruit zest and yuzu aromas. Dry, full-bodied, full of energy and zest. One for the cellar, or decant and enjoy now.

2022 Neudorf Vineyard Rosie’s Block Chardonnay

RRP \$51.99
EuroVintage

This creamy Chardonnay is flinty, silky and full-bodied with subtle elements of ripe citrus (lemons and grapefruit aromas) and notes of spice. It is made with grapes grown in Nelson’s Moutere Hills and is named after the second-generation winemaking family member, Rosie Finn, daughter of Tim and Judy Finn, who co-founded Neudorf Vineyards.

2018 Craft Series The Pioneer Chardonnay

RRP \$65
Marisco

Hand-picked grapes were whole bunch fermented in French oak to make this powerful, full-bodied Chardonnay. Its rich texture is balanced beautifully by deep citrus and tangy stonefruit flavours, such as nectarine and white peach. This impressive Chardonnay was made in honour of John Marris, a visionary and pioneering grape grower in Marlborough and father of winemaker Brent Marris.

📍 For distributor details see the **Distributor Index on page 82.**

Hand-picked grapes were whole bunch fermented in French oak to make the powerful, full-bodied 2018 Craft Series The Pioneer Chardonnay from Marisco.



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the flavour's
so intense.



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