McHENRY HOHNEN VINTNERS



2023 BURNSIDE VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

Review Summary

96 pts - "Pale straw yellow with some lime tints in the light. Fragrant notes of white peach, struck flint and roasting chestnut leap from the glass. Intense and driven on the palate; white stone fruits are layered with green apple zip, grilling nuts and a distinct struck flint minerality. Acidity offers compression and tension so it springs across the tongue, all coiled and taut, balancing the fruit and savoury intensity. The length is prodigious, finishing with a crescendo of white fruit and saline minerality. A superb modern Australian chardonnay that offers great value on the equivalent world stage."

Stuart Knox, Real Review 8 February 2025

96 pts - "Burnside, not to be confused with the rather 'select' shopping centre in Adelaide. Planted 1981. Lime, white peach, mint and aniseed, almond paste, a kiss of smoky struck match. It has something of a green bean and parmesan rind sulphide character (which I'm, admittedly, not a huge fan of), but it has intensity, lime rind, a salted cracker character, vibrating 'mineral' acidity, so much grip and flinty texture, and a finish of super length, all lime margarita and chalk. Savoury, saline and so intense. If you love the modern Margaret River style, then this will absolutely hit the spot."

Gary Walsh, The Wine Front 25 September 2024

95 pts - "The 2023 Burnside Vineyard Chardonnay is from the Burnside vineyard, which was planted in 1981, and the wine speaks clearly of pink grapefruit, salted cashews, yellow-flesh peach, mustard seed and a hint of marzipan. The wine is piercingly intense and populated by penetrating fruit characters that linger long through the finish. The fruit is only "just ripe" in that the acidity skates a very fine line between green and juicy. I find this to be a little distracting, despite being somewhat infatuated by the personality of the fruit flavors themselves. There's a lot going on here, and on balance, this is my favorite of the cuvées this vintage. I find the level of sapidity here to be outrageously impressive. 13% alcohol, sealed under screw cap."

Erin Larkin, Wine Advocate 22 November 2024

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95 pts - "This intense and young 2023 Burnside Vineyard Chardonnay is a powerhouse and densely flavoured with layers of Summer peach, fruit salad, and roasted nuts with a strong backbone of toasty French oak. Mouth filling and flavoursome with creamy textures building to a lengthy finish. A huge crowd pleaser with something for everyone."

Angus Hughson, Wine Pilot October 2024

94 pts - "Saline and minerally aromas of lemon peel, phosphorous, oyster shells and limes. The palate has bright acidity, a medium-bodied mouthfeel and a creamy texture, giving notes of grapefruit, orange peel and sea spray. Refined and tightly wound."

James Suckling, Jamessuckling.com 24 November 2024

94 pts - "The Burnside Vineyard is the warmest of the three McHenry Hohnen sites, and this translates to the bottle. A wild nose filled with salty breezes, perfumed oak, cashew, funky Parmesan at first (give this time to breathe), flint, tightly bundled spice, saltbush, glossy lemon pith and bay leaf. Wide knit phenolics on the palate, yet the sweet and fine fruit core is there with ripe stone fruit and a savoury pinch of foraged herbs. Crushed sunflower seeds on the finish and some punchy acidity that translates to a wine of emboldened energy. Great intensity and length, the largest character of the winery's three single-vineyard Chardonnays."

Cassandra Charlick, Decanter June 2025