

# The Batten Chardonnay — 2016

## SPECIAL RESERVE

A tribute to Jean Batten 1909 - 1982; A celebrated and true heroine of New Zealand aviation history.

## VINEYARDS

All grapes used for the Batten Chardonnay are grown with this specific target in mind. Vines are pruned to lower bud numbers, and no manual labour is spared in the vineyard. Shoot thinning, shoot positioning, lateral and bunch thinning are just a few of the passes we make through the vineyard. Seasonal adjustments are made in yields to guarantee excellent fruit ripeness and concentration. The grapes are hand harvested to select only the optimum quality bunches. Physiological ripeness is the main criteria determining harvest date.

## WINEMAKING

This single vineyard estate grown Chardonnay was harvested from the best parcels of Clone 15 (93%) and Mendoza grapes. The fruit was handpicked, whole bunch pressed, with juice transferred to 100% French oak barriques and puncheons, 60% new. Indigenous yeast fermentation adds complexity and depth to the wine. Some of the barrels were inoculated with selected yeast to maintain an aspect of fruit purity. The fermentation took approximately 3 weeks to complete followed by full MLF fermentation. Lees stirring took place for several months after vintage to increase the palate weight and roundness. The wine remained in the same barrels for 12 months prior to being blended to tank in March 2016.

## TASTING NOTE

This barrel fermented Chardonnay shows delicate citrus blossom, white fleshed nectarine and hints of gardenia perfume. It has a luxurious palate, powerful, complex yet balanced. Delivering caramel and toffee with roasted peach flavours, the palate is completed by a very long layered toasty finish.

## CELLARING

The Batten Chardonnay still has a 3-4 of years cellaring potential and we are just starting to see the wine integrate into a seamless textural mouthful.

## TECHNICAL ANALYSIS AT BOTTLING

pH	3.28
Total acidity	5.7 g/l
Alcohol	13.5%
Residual Sugar	<1.5 g/l

## ABOUT ALPHA DOMUS

From our origins in 1989, establishing both vineyard and winery, Alpha Domus was a pioneer in the renowned Bridge Pa Triangle Wine District of Hawke's Bay. New Zealand family owned, we have always been inspired to create beautiful wines of worth; the importance of quality and expert craftsmanship paramount. Alpha is derived from the first initials of the founding family members names in age descending order, Anthonius, Leonarda, Paulus, Henrikus and Anthony, Domus is Latin for home.

ALPHA — DOMUS

