



Port Phillip Estate Balnarring Chardonnay 2020 – Reviews

The WineFront, June 2022

[Campbell Mattinson](#)

Flint, funk and grilled peach flavours put on an engaging and enjoyable show. It feels both ripe and refreshing throughout, fennel and pear drop characters whispering in the background. Nicely done. Oak is present but not dangerous, length is satisfying and the wine's textural creaminess is set at just the right pitch.

92 points

Wine Pilot, July 2022

[Ray Jordan](#)

This 1997 planted vineyard adopted the close planting philosophy of the Old World vineyards. Natural fermentation in large format wooden foudres has produced a wine that expresses its fruit characters so beautifully. It went in French oak barriques after that with a small portion of new oak giving it a spicy lift. Cherry and red fruits on the nose with a slightly savoury field mushroom complexity. It also has a silky satin like texture, beneath which there is power and palate intensity.

95 points

Halliday Australian Wine Companion 2023, August 2022

[Jane Faulkner](#)

It's racy, citrusy – especially pink grapefruit – and it's spicy, with an appealing fennel aroma. There's more to come in time as it's still tightly wound, led by acidity making it intense and linear, yet oh, so refreshing.

94 points

Courier Mail & Gourmet Traveller Wine, July 2022

[Ken Gargett](#)

The Balnarring vineyard has three parcels of Chardonnay, but for this wine the fruit comes exclusively from the oldest plantings. Originally planted in 1997, the team took control of the vineyard a decade later. Miocene sedimentary soils, for those into dirt. Gentle whole bunch pressing into French oak barriques (a mix of 228 and 350 litres), 15% new, with fermentation by natural yeasts. 11 months ageing on lees, with bâtonnage avoided. Pale straw, there are gentle notes of citrus. This is the more refined of the two vineyard Chardonnays. A steely backing here, nicely balanced. Lemon, ginger and pear notes. More citrus than stonefruit, but notes of both. This is complex, but also approachable yet with good tension. Concentrated and with really good length, this is seriously impressive.

93 points

Real Review, June 2022

Huon Hooke

Nectarines and peaches, yellow fruits, smoky barrel and chalky overtones. Light, delicate palate with refinement and crisp dry balance, the finish quite tense and lively. Focused and piercing.

90 points