

Climbing

2005 CLIMBING CHARDONNAY

Defined by altitude, Orange is one of Australia's highest and coolest wine regions starting at 600 metres above sea level. The name Climbing is an active reference to our high altitude vineyard and our continual quest for greater achievement.

The passion and skill of winemaker Philip Shaw has unleashed the potential of the vineyard and the quest has only just begun.

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

"2005 in Orange and the Central Ranges was undoubtedly the best vintage of my winemaking life. The cold weather and spring rains made for a difficult start, as some vineyards had to shoot thin twice to control vigour. After November 2004, it was dry and mild for the entire summer – with days averaging in the high 20's and very cool nights. This was the ideal climatic balance with fruit ripening exactly when we wanted.

Reds are showing outstanding colour and flavour." – Philip Shaw

The summer was relatively cool and it looked like we were in for a late start to vintage, with the grapes showing high acidity early on. However with warmer and dry conditions in February, vintage proceeded quickly, with all varieties reaching high degrees of maturation at the same time.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Winemaker: Philip Shaw

Region: Orange, New South Wales

Alcohol: 13.0%

Winemaking notes: The chardonnay was harvested at night below 15 C to avoid any oxidation and assist in cold settling. With cool clean fruit harvested the juice settled well. Once racked the juice was inoculated with chardonnay specific yeast and transferred to French barriques for fermentation. After fermentation, the lees was stirred adding complexity to the wine. This chardonnay received minimal handling, left un-sulphured for three months to promote partial MLF activity, and stabilization prior to bottling.

Tasting Notes: This wine exhibits a fine nose of citrus/nectarine fruit with background charred oak overlaying some complex biscuit and creamy yeast autolysis characteristics. The wine finishes with a pleasing and persistent length.

