



# MOUNT PLEASANT

## CHARDONNAY 2003

Mount Pleasant is situated on the slopes of the Brokenback Ridge in the Hunter Valley, NSW. The estate was established in 1921 by the legendary winemaker Maurice O'Shea who recognised the special characteristics and longevity of Hunter Valley table wines. To this day, Mount Pleasant continues to bottle-age commercial quantities of wines until they are considered at their peak to release.

**Vineyard Region** Hunter Valley, NSW.

**Vineyard Conditions** Following the worst drought on record since 1902, the 2003 vintage experienced virtually negligible rain which reduced crop potential significantly. These dry conditions prior to vintage resulted in excellent fruit ripening, producing white wines of concentrated varietal flavour, while maintaining balanced acidity.

**Grape Variety** 100 per cent Chardonnay.

**Vinification & Maturation** The fruit was immediately separated from skins, prior to being racked and fermented in stainless steel for 10 days. The fermenting juice was then transferred to new French oak barrels to complete fermentation for 18 days. The resulting wine then underwent battonage and ageing on yeast lees in barrel for six months. On completion of maturation the Chardonnay barrels were blended, stabilised and filtered prior to bottling.

### Winemaker Phil Ryan's Comments:

**Colour** Pale straw yellow.

**Aroma** A complex bouquet of peaches, guava, spicy oak and cashew nut aromas, enhanced by the flinty, gun smoke characters of barrel fermentation.

**Palate** Voluptuous peachy fruit harmonized with creamy, biscuity oak characters integrated by barrel maturation and lees stirring. These flavours are supported by an excellent acid balance and generous persistence.

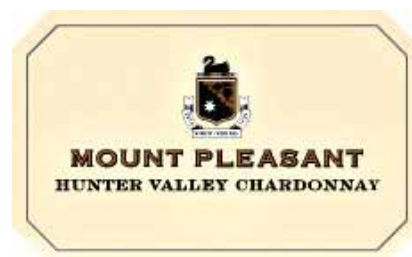
### Chef Peter Howard's Serving Suggestions

Seafood risotto.

**Wine Analysis** Alc/Vol: 14.0%      pH: 3.20      TA: 6.50

**Last Tasted** September 2004

**Peak Drinking** Enjoy now or cellar for up to four years from vintage.



PHIL RYAN  
Mount Pleasant Chief Winemaker

[www.mcwilliams wines.com.au](http://www.mcwilliams wines.com.au)

