



# MOUNT PLEASANT

## 2003 MAURICE O'SHEA CHARDONNAY

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** The growing season prior to the 2003 vintage was dominated by the worst drought on record since 1902. Spring rainfall was virtually negligible with some relief felt in December. The effect was to reduce crop size. The dry conditions however led to excellent ripening levels, producing white wines rich in fruit flavour while maintaining balanced acidity.

**Grape Variety** 100 per cent Chardonnay

**Vinification & Maturation** After immediate separation, the juice was racked and fermented for one week in stainless steel, completing fermentation over two weeks in new, tight grained Premium French oak hogsheads and barriques. After fermentation the wine was barrel aged for six months with regular battonage, or lees stirring. Following blending the wine was stabilised, filtered and bottled.



### Winemaker Phil Ryan's Comments:

**Colour** Pale straw with green hues.

**Aroma** Freshly sliced guava fruit, honeydew melon and fine lifted toasty oak are subtly complemented with smoky, flinty barrel fermentation aromas.

**Palate** This wine is crisp on the palate with long lingering flavours of guava, rockmelon and peach. The layered oak complexities are harmoniously complimented by creamy, yeasty characters from barrel maturation.

### Chef Peter Howard's Serving Suggestions

Coconut prawns drizzled with lime mayonnaise or Roast Chicken with Chardonnay Leek Beurre Blanc.

**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 2010.

PHIL RYAN  
Mount Pleasant Chief Winemaker

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