



# PEPPER TREE

## LIMITED RELEASE

### ‘VENATOR’ 2024 Hunter Valley Chardonnay

Venator - the Latin word for HUNTER. Rich stone fruit characters of peach and nectarine on the nose complemented by a hint of nutmeg and clove spice. The palate is long and tight filled with melon and stone fruit notes finishing with a crunchy, nectarine-like acidity. A balanced use of French oak provides mid palate structure and complexity. This wine is made to be enjoyed now or over the medium term.

#### VINTAGE

The Hunter Valley growing season was preceded by a notably dry winter, punctuated by two short hail events across the valley. These conditions did affect yields to some degree, with Semillon being one of the lower yielding varieties for the harvest. Despite the early challenges, summer growing conditions were largely favourable. Warm diurnal temperatures interspersed with timely patches of rainfall allowed for consistent ripening and relatively little disease pressure. While yields were overall lower than our ten-year average, the quality of the fruit was sensational across the board.

#### VINEYARD

Pepper Tree's Hunter Valley vineyard is in the Mount View area of the Lower Hunter Valley in the sheltered foothills of the Brokenback Range and covers 38.5 ha of plantings. The area boasts highly favourable soils influenced by the large proportion of limestone in the underlying rocks. Alluvial loams along the vineyard's creek flats are ideal soils for Semillon, Chardonnay and Verdelho.

#### APPELLATION / GI

Hunter Valley (New South Wales) 100%,

#### WINEMAKING

The block was machine harvested in the cool of the night before chilling and pressing. The resulting juice was allowed to partially settle in tank before being transferred to oak puncheons for ferment. Once dry, the resulting wines were left untouched in barrel for approximately 10 months before being blended and prepared for bottling.

#### TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

BLEND:	Chardonnay (100%)
BOTTLING DATE:	09/2024
PH:	3.48
TA:	5.7 g/l
ALC/VOL:	13.0%
STANDARD DRINKS:	7.7



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HUNTER VALLEY | ORANGE | WRATTONBULLY | COONAWARRA