

MAISONS MARQUES & DOMAINES



PIO CESARE



Pio Cesare

Chardonnay Piodilei DOC

Piemonte, Italy
Vintage: 2021

JS	95	WA	93+
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Overview

The Pio Cesare family's unique winemaking method stresses minimal intervention to produce wines of particularly supple flavor expression. A ceaseless devotion to the individuality of each of the region's wines informs Pio Cesare's choices in the cellar: shorter maceration, separate lot fermentation, judicious selection for barrel and large cask aging, and bottling schedules determined by the ideal structure of each wine. This allows Pio Cesare to craft wines of varying weight, ageability and drinkability as determined by the vineyard rather than market fashion.

First released with the 1985 vintage and conceived as a tribute to the influential women of the Pio Cesare family (Pio di lei translating to "for the ladies"), Chardonnay Piodilei represents the family's desire to produce a white wine with the same body, complexity and aging potential of the great reds historically produced in the Langhe. The family produces very small quantities of this wine.

Winemaking

From the inaugural 1985 vintage to the 2018 release, Piodilei Chardonnay was a single-vineyard, barrel-fermented Chardonnay. Grape sourcing changed in the 2019 vintage by complementing the historical Il Bricco estate vineyard in Treiso Barbaresco—where the family's first Chardonnay grapes were planted in 1981—with the Mosconi vineyard in Monforte d'Alba.

Yields in both vineyards remain low and grapes are harvested rather late when fully ripened. The fermentation starts in stainless steel tanks and then finishes in French oak barriques, one-third of which are new. During *élevage*, the wine spends eight months in French oak barriques with extensive lees contact. Nine additional months of bottle-aging before release.

Tasting Notes

Spicy, creamy and intense with a soft but long aftertaste. Sweet fruit, hot and ripe, still very fresh with an elegant touch of oak. Built for the cellar, this wine has a very long aging potential.

Harvest Notes

Unlike previous years, the harvest of the Chardonnay vineyards was very short and lasted three days, ending on September 13th.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Varietals: 100% Chardonnay