

# PATRICK SULLIVAN

baw baw shire chardonnay 2023



## LEGEND

AUSTRALIAN WINE IMPORTS

**Winemaker:** Patrick Sullivan

**Grape(s):** Chardonnay

**GI:** Gippsland

**Site(s):** Bull Swamp Vineyard and others, Baw Baw Shire

**Vintage notes:** The last (for a bit) in a series of La Niña vintages, producing higher than average rainfall and cool temperatures. Though botrytis and disease pressure were threats, the vintage rewarded the meticulous with chiseled and precise wines of complexity and elegance.

**Vineyard notes:** All vineyards are farmed with Patrick's own paradigm, inspired by biodynamic principles and other disciplines. The Bullswamp vineyard was planted in 1982 by the Farrington family at the very edge of the Warragul township at 100m elevation. The vines for the Baw Baw Shire bottling are the younger ones in the Bullswamp vineyard, about 25 years old; all are cane pruned, no tillage. Completely dry-grown on volcanic soils. This section of the vineyard faces south, with moderate airflow and exposure.

**Winemaking:** Rigorous sorting of grapes follows hand harvest. Grapes are whole-cluster pressed. Fermentation takes place over 3 weeks with full malolactic taking place immediately post primary fermentation. Elevage in 25% new barrique, 50% used barrique, and 25% stück. Lees stirring occurred twice towards the end of primary fermentation, then once more at the completion of malolactic fermentation. Only add is a small amount of sulphur.

**Closure:** DIAM 5 Origine **ABV:** 13%

**LEGEND tasting notes:** A nuanced and subtle chardonnay that presents place more than any particular winemaking slant. The nose is an understated mix of toasted wattleseed, yellow apple, and lemon aspen (a spongy and floral native citrus). Delicate and intricately-knit palate, persistent and balanced acid, with pleasantly plump fruit weight.

**Label design:** Label art by Helsinki-based illustrator Eero Lampinan. According to Patrick, "the scope was a garden of eden on volcanics. Symbols of the green place in which we live and the rich volcanic soils."

**Production size:** 533 dozen