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BENOVIA[™]
Winery

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2008
Sonoma Mountain
Chardonnay

Harvest Notes

Spring in Sonoma County was one of the coldest on record; we endured 28 days of frost protection in March and April. We also experienced a second year of drought with rainfall well below average. These two factors set the stage for early flowering, low yields (compromised by the frost) and a very early harvest. A cool and dry summer, with low mildew and rot pressure, forced us to be more aware of water stress in the vineyard and to irrigate as needed. By fall, warm temperatures and an August/September heat spike forced us to harvest some vineyards almost a month early. The resulting low yields and stressed vines produced grapes with tremendous power, color and outstanding potential.

Winegrower Notes

This Chardonnay comes from the Four Brothers Vineyard along the western slope of Sonoma Mountain. The vineyard is situated in a cool microclimate because of its proximity to the cold wind and fog that blow through the Estero Gap from the Pacific Ocean. This multifaceted wine is produced from a field-blend of several old Wente Chardonnay clones and an exceptional Chardonnay clone from Burgundy (Dijon 809). Harvested in the early morning, the fruit was rigorously hand sorted prior to whole cluster pressing and barrel fermentation with indigenous yeasts.

Tasting Notes

This 2008 Sonoma Mountain Chardonnay is bursting with aromas of acacia blossom, citrus oil and tropical fruits. The lively aromas are followed by layer after layer of sweet apple and candied pineapple. Barrel fermentation and oak aging for 16 months have added hints of vanilla bean, and baking spices to this complex and delicious wine.

Vineyard Sources

Four Brothers,
Sullivan Vineyard

Harvest Data

September 22, 2007
Alcohol 14.2%
pH 3.51
TA 0.65

Fermentation

Whole cluster pressed and
fermented with indigenous yeast
fermentation lasted for over
5 months

Cooperage

16 months in French Oak—
40% new French Oak

Bottling

February 24, 2010

Cases Produced

88 cases

Release Date

March 2010