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BENOVIA®

Winery

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2008
Sonoma Coast
Chardonnay

Harvest Notes

Spring along the Sonoma Coast 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 would 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 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 a selected block of the Charles Vineyard planted to Chardonnay clone Dijon 76, 95 and 96. The site is located on the third coastal ridge from the ocean, near the town of Seaview. The low-fertility soils and cool temperature near the Pacific Ocean greatly influence this distinctive Chardonnay. 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 seductive Chardonnay displays aromas of citrus blossom, white peach, and underlying mineral notes. On the palate, the wine displays tension between bright acidity and cool-climate structure framed with flavors of Jonathan apple and honeydew melon. This wine is delightfully elegant upon release but will continue to gain complexity with age for three to five years.

Vineyard Sources

Charles Vineyard—
Lee Martinelli Jr.

Harvest Data

October 2, 2008
Alcohol 14.3%
pH 3.55
TA 0.57

Fermentation

Whole cluster pressed and fermented;
indigenous yeast fermentation
lasted more than five months

Cooperage

52% new French Oak

Bottling

April 22, 2010

Cases Produced

94 cases

Release Date

August 2010