



BENOVIA
EST. 2005

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2009 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay



Harvest Notes

The Sonoma Coast experienced its third successive drought in the winter of 2008 and spring of 2009. The colder than average temperatures in spring pushed the season back by almost three weeks at flowering and fruit set. The summer was cool and dry with low mildew and rot pressure. Temperatures warmed in July and August, helping to create a very even veraison and setting the stage for a great vintage. Yields were below average and the stressed vines produced grapes with exceptional color, vibrant acidity, and balance. We are very excited about the 2009 vintage—it may be our best yet!

Winegrower Notes

This Chardonnay comes from a selected block of the Charles Vineyard on the third coastal ridge from the ocean, near the town of Seaview. The low-fertility soils and cooler temperatures near the Pacific Ocean help shape the distinctive characteristics of this Chardonnay. Planted to Chardonnay clones Dijon 76, 95 and 96, the fruit was harvested in the early morning, rigorously hand sorted prior to whole cluster pressing, and barrel fermented with indigenous yeasts.

Tasting Notes

This seductive Chardonnay displays aromas of citrus blossom and green apple with underlying mineral notes. On the palate the wine exhibits a tension between bright acidity and cool-climate structure, beautifully framed with flavors of Jonathan apple and honeydew melon. This wine is delightfully elegant upon release, and will continue to gain complexity with bottle age for three to five years.

Vineyard Sources

Lee Martinelli Jr., Charles Vineyard

Harvest Data

September 26, 2009 | Alcohol 14.1% | pH 3.37 | TA 0.64

Fermentation

Whole cluster pressed and fermented with indigenous yeast, with fermentation lasting more than five months

Cooperage

Aged 16 months in French oak (50% new)

Bottling

March 1, 2011

Cases Produced

70 cases

Release Date

August 2011