

Proprietor Blended
SPECIAL CUVEE

Elizabeth Spencer

CHARDONNAY
SONOMA COAST

Vintage 2004

24 Barrels

Produced & Bottled by Elizabeth Spencer Wines

APPELLATION: SONOMA COAST
VARITETAL BLEND: 100% CHARDONNAY
BARRELS: 2- AND 3-YEAR-OLD FRENCH OAK
PRODUCTION: 552 CASES
WINEMAKER: SPENCER GRAHAM
RELEASE DATE: SPRING 2005

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Brilliant straw gold color. Aromas and flavors of citrus, apple, subtle toasty vanilla. A creamy texture and round mouth feel are balanced with rich liveliness; the purity of flavor carries through to a vibrantly crisp finish.

VINEYARDS

The south-facing hillside vineyards are located north of San Pablo Bay on Lakeville Highway outside the town of Petaluma. Cooling influences from the nearby Bay converge with those from the Pacific Coast to create a very cool microclimate, ideal for Chardonnay.

WINEMAKING

The Chardonnay grapes were picked in the cool early morning hours. After whole cluster pressing, the juice was barrel fermented in 60-gallon French oak using natural yeast. The wine went through partial malolactic fermentation. The wine was further aged in 2 to 3 year old French oak barrels.

VINTAGE

The Sonoma Coast had a very favorable growing season in 2004 that started with an early, warm spring. The timing of bud break set the stage for one of the earliest harvests on record. Temperatures were moderate throughout the season with some heat spikes at summer's end. These conditions encouraged earlier yet gradual grape maturation and harvest began sooner than normal years. The condition of the grapes was exceptional at harvest. We were able to pick grapes at peak flavor development and get them into the winery before the early arriving rains. We found that the grapes had tremendous flavor development and there was highly desirable acid retention in the fruit. Yields were lower, but the wines from this vintage are very concentrated with tremendous color. They are rich, fully flavored, intense, yet balanced wines. This was an extremely good year for Chardonnay. In short, the 2004 harvest was early, the crop was small and the grapes ripened very well.

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