



*Elizabeth Spencer*TM

2006 Chardonnay Sonoma Coast

Appellation: Sonoma Coast
Varietal Blend: 100% Chardonnay
Production: 40 Barrels
Winemakers: Matthew Rorick and Spencer Graham

Winemaker's Notes

Pure yellow gold in color. Crisp apple, honeysuckle, and summer melon aromas are complimented by hints of lemon meringue, clove and slate. Broad and generous on the palate, the wine has rich flavors of Meyer lemon, crème brûlée, lavender and pear. On the finish, crisp acidity brings the broad palate into focus with long, lingering flavors of citrus.

Winemaking

Our Sonoma Coast vineyards were ideally influenced by a cooler than usual growing season in 2006 and provided us excellent raw material. The Chardonnay grapes were rich and intense with bright natural acidity and great depth of structure. After observing the near perfect growing conditions and tasting the fruit, we realized that our best stance was to handle the fruit as little as possible in order to showcase its true expression. Following hand-harvesting, grapes were pressed as whole clusters and then fermented in a combination of new and older French oak barrels along with specially designed stainless steel barrels. Minimal stirring of the lees was employed to heighten the wine's richness which we expect will only expand with additional aging.

Vineyards

Our Chardonnay is grown in south facing hillside vineyards located on Lakeville Highway south of town of Petaluma in Sonoma County. Cooling influences from the nearby San Pablo and San Francisco Bays converge with those of the Pacific Coast to create a very cool microclimate, particularly well-suited to the production of premium Chardonnay grapes.

Vintage

The 2006 growing season in northern California was characterized by two distinct features - a spring with more than usual rain and a slightly cooler than normal summer. As a result, the grapes had an ideally paced development cycle with even ripening throughout. With a lighter than usual crop, the Chardonnay developed optimum aromas and flavors along with ideal grape maturity. As a result, this Chardonnay is a true expression of the variety, featuring clean, pure flavors, ample structure and body, and balancing natural acidity.