



*Elizabeth Spencer*  
BONDED WINERY EST. 1998

## 2006 Elizabeth Spencer Wente Clone Cuvée Chardonnay, Sonoma Coast

Appellation: Sonoma Coast  
Varietal Blend: 100% Chardonnay (Wente Clone Selection)  
Production: 8 Barrels  
Winemaker: Matthew Rorick

### Winemaker's Notes

This Wente Clone Cuvée Chardonnay is rich yellow-gold in color with aromas of honeysuckle, pear blossom, toasted vanilla bean and green fig. It is voluptuous, rich and full on the palate with flavors of honeycomb, white pepper, ripe stone fruit, clove and bright lemon. A wine possessing seductive viscosity, it has an ideal balance of weight and roundness. With a long lingering finish echoing the flavors, this wine is quite enjoyable upon release. It will continue to evolve and develop in complexity and richness with additional aging.

### Winemaking

Throughout the growing season, our Chardonnay grapes from the Wente Clone stood apart with a distinctive richness, profound intensity along with a bright natural acidity and great depth of structure. After observing the near-perfect growing conditions and after tasting the extraordinary fruit, we decided to ferment the Wente Clone Chardonnay as a small independent batch. Following hand-harvesting, the grapes were pressed as whole clusters and then fermented in a combination of new and older French oak barrels. In order to highlight the natural expression of the fruit, there was very little handling throughout the winemaking process which has only served to heighten the wine's richness and allure.

### Vineyards

The Chardonnay for our Wente Clone Cuvée is grown in south facing hillside vineyards located south 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. The original budwood for the Wente clone was collected from the Burgundy region of France in 1912 by a member of the Wente family. Cuttings from the Wente clone are the source of some of the most highly-regarded Chardonnay vineyards in California.

### Vintage

During 2006, our Sonoma Coast vineyards were positively influenced by a cooler than normal growing season characterized by a wetter than normal spring and a slightly cooler than normal summer. As a result, the grapes had an ideally paced development cycle with even ripening throughout. A lighter than usual crop load allowed the vines to reach maximum maturity. As a result, this Wente Clone Cuvée Chardonnay is a rich, true expression of the variety, featuring clean, delicious and pure flavors with ample structure and body, and a balancing natural acidity.