

Proprietor Selected
SPECIAL CUVÉE

Elizabeth Spencer

CHARDONNAY
NAPA VALLEY

Vintage 2006

16 Barrels

Produced & Bottled by Elizabeth Spencer Wines.

APPELLATION: NAPA VALLEY
VARIETAL BLEND: 100% CHARDONNAY
WINEMAKER: SPENCER GRAHAM
RELEASE DATE: SPRING 2008

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Pale straw in color. Refined aromas of green apple, pear blossom, lemon curd and wet slate gain in complexity as the wine develops in the glass. Tight and focused on the palate, this Chardonnay has a medium body that ideally supports the solid framework of bright acidity. Flavors of kaffir lime and star fruit overlay the creamy lemon curd finish, which will continue to broaden and develop with additional bottle age.

WINEMAKING

Our winemaking is based on the philosophy of showcasing the pure expression of the fruit and allowing it to take center stage; therefore we ferment this Chardonnay entirely in small, stainless steel barrels. Long, cool fermentation gives this Napa Chardonnay layers of fruitiness and complexity that result in a wine that is very enjoyable when young and after several years of bottle age. Kept on the lees and stirred twice a month in order to allow a complex, rich mouth feel to develop, this wine offers the taster an opportunity to enjoy the essence of this variety's character untrammled by oak. Crisp and refreshing now, it will continue to increase in richness and complexity over the next several years.

VINEYARDS

Located in the southern end of the Napa Valley, the vineyard which produced this Chardonnay is nestled against the foothills of the Mayacamas Mountains. With a slightly southeastern aspect, the vineyard is protected from prolonged afternoon sunlight which can overheat delicate Chardonnay fruit and compromise its more refined and complex aromas. The fruit from this cooler vineyard site provides the fruit, citrus and mineral notes that complement food so well.

VINTAGE

As in 2005, the growing season began with a wet spring and a cooler than usual summer until a two week heat wave struck. Luckily, our Napa Valley Chardonnay had not yet reached a stage of ripeness at which the delicate aromas and flavors were at risk of being damaged or destroyed, and once the hot weather had passed the fruit continued to ripen at a slow and steady pace. Firm in texture and long on structure, our 2006 Napa Valley Chardonnay should continue to improve in bottle for some time.

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