

Proprietor Selected
SPECIAL CUVÉE

Elizabeth Spencer

CHARDONNAY
SONOMA COAST

Vintage 2007

40 Barrels

Produced & Bottled by Elizabeth Spencer Wines

APPELLATION: SONOMA COAST
VARIETAL BLEND: 100% CHARDONNAY
PRODUCTION: 40 BARRELS
WINEMAKER: SPENCER GRAHAM

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Pale straw gold in color. Aromas of lemon curd, honeycomb, pear, starfruit, and a hint of ginger, mingle pleasantly and invite further exploration. Offering a rich mouthfeel at first blush, the natural acidity quickly asserts structure around a core of peach and pear flavors, interwoven with honeysuckle and slate. This wine finishes with a snap of Granny Smith apple acidity that leaves the palate refreshed.

WINEMAKING

Following hand harvesting in late September, our 2007 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay grapes were whole-cluster pressed and fermented in a combination of new and older French oak along with specially designed stainless steel barrels. Malo-lactic fermentation was strongly discouraged in order to maintain the bright, lively acidity which characterizes our Sonoma Coast wine. Following fermentation, the wine was stirred twice monthly to heighten its mouthfeel and richness.

VINEYARDS

Our Chardonnay is grown in south facing hillside vineyards located south of the 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 2007 growing season in northern California appeared to be trending toward a warm one, until the hot days of August mellowed into a mild, dry fall. This sedate ripening climate allowed our grapevines to develop their fruit gradually and ripen it evenly. By assiduous management of the crop level and vine growth we were able to guide this vintage's Chardonnay to optimum ripeness, showcasing complex and forward aromas and flavors. The result is a wine which is a brilliantly true expression of the variety, featuring clean, pure flavors, ample structure and body, and balancing natural acidity.

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