



APPELLATION: SONOMA COAST  
VARIETAL BLEND: 100% CHARDONNAY (WENTE CLONE SELECTION)  
PRODUCTION: 8 BARRELS  
DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING: SPENCER GRAHAM

#### VINEYARDS

Our Chardonnay Wente Clone grapes come from a vineyard located just north of the San Pablo Bay on Lakeville Highway. The south facing hillside vineyards are near the town of Petaluma in southern Sonoma County. Cooling influences from the nearby bays converge with those from the Pacific Ocean to create a particularly cool microclimate which is ideal for growing premium Chardonnay grapes. This also provides a platform for gradual and complete development of fruit flavors and aromas.

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. This clone produces fruit that stands apart with a distinctive richness, profound intensity along with a bright natural acidity and great depth of structure.

#### VINTAGE

The 2008 growing season was quite arduous and a “knuckle-biter” for both grape growers and winemakers. A dry winter and warmer than usual spring prompted an earlier than normal bud break. We harvested the grapes at an ideal balance of ripeness and structure during the third week of September.

#### WINEMAKING

Following hand-harvesting, the grapes were pressed as whole clusters. We fermented the 2008 Chardonnay Wente Clone as a small independent batch 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.

#### WINEMAKER’S NOTES

Rich yellow-gold in color with aromas of banana flan on the nose. The creamy elements carry through the entry. This wine is voluptuous with a slightly honeyed texture and a rich butterscotch taste in the mouth. A wine possessing seductive viscosity, it has an ideal balance of weight and roundness. Has a medium length with earthy notes, yet remains vibrant with acid in the finish.

*Elizabeth Spencer*

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