



2014 NAPA VALLEY CHARDONNAY



BLEND	100% Chardonnay
APPELLATION	Napa Valley
VINEYARD	100% Carneros: Stanly Ranch Estate Vineyard, Hyde Vineyard
HARVEST DATES	Early September
COOPERAGE	60% new Burgundy barrels from central and eastern France
ÉLEVAGE	18 months on full lees, only racked once
ALCOHOL	14.7% by volume
TA	6.1
pH	3.2

WINEMAKING

Silhouette is a limited production Chardonnay worthy of a collector's cellar. This hallmark white blend captures the family's vision of crafting an old-world style white wine from the Napa Valley. Each vintage, our very best Chardonnay fruit goes into the Silhouette bottling. For the 2014 vintage, the wine is comprised of grapes grown on our Stanly Ranch Estate Vineyard and the neighboring Hyde Vineyard in Carneros. The grapes for Silhouette were handpicked at peak ripeness, and hand sorted before a gentle whole cluster pressing. We were able to achieve slow, cool native primary and malolactic fermentations with extended lees contact that enhanced the beautiful aromas provided by Mother Nature. The wine was aged for 18 months on full lies in 60% new French oak barrels.

VINTAGE

Vintners are using words like “quality”, “depth of flavor” and “excellent” to describe expectations for the 2014 vintage in Napa Valley. Despite the curveballs from Mother Nature, the weather was generally perfect at the right times, leading to an abundant and strong crop. Harvest started and ended earlier than usual. The first grapes were picked on July 30th and nearly all harvest activity was completed by the third week of October, a full two weeks ahead of normal harvest schedule for most wineries.

From our standpoint, 2014 was an incredible vintage for Chardonnay in Napa. Despite an early harvest the fruit had incredible acidity and ripeness. The cool weather of August was perfect to slowly ripen the fruit and bring complexity and concentration into the berries.

TASTING PROFILE

A shimmering golden straw in color, with a mosaic of fruit aromas; including pineapple, peach, passion fruit and mango. Beginning with a focused entry, each sip displays flavors of toasted brioche, lemon curd, fresh baked pastry and toasted almond. The mid-palate has bright acidity along with good weight, power and texture. The long finish leaves behind lingering tastes of fine oak tannins. Silhouette is always an age-worthy white wine, and will gain complexity over the next 5-10 years.