

Hunter
Wine Cellars



Chasseur

2011 CHARDONNAY

Graton's Choice



Winemaker: William Hunter
Production: 125 cases
Alcohol: 14.1%

The Vintage:

The mild spring of 2011 started the growing season off to a good start however, set was such that the potential yield would be small, very small. The subsequent summer was mild, an indicator for an even growing season. A warm fall with absolutely wonderful early berry flavors teased with possibilities of the best vintage since the incredible 1974. However, rain in late September postponed harvest. Some of our vineyards were ready for harvest, so we went ahead and harvested those, but many were not so waiting seemed to be the better part of valor. Many other wineries picked unripe fruit before the rain but we feel that was a mistake. Due to the extra effort our growers put into each and every vineyard at crucial times like these afforded us the luxury of waiting and we're happy we did. Those early flavors we liked became even more evident when we finally did harvest.

Winemaker's Notes:

Youthfully firm, this Chardonnay has the structure and zest, but with an extra layer of suppleness. The first aromatic impressions are of apple skins, fresh pears, Fuji apples and lemon curd; which all seem to float above a sub-layer of toasted nuts and minerals. Preserved lemon, apple and pear flavors dominate on the palate, with a good supply of toasty, nutty and minerality accents in support. This is an age-worthy bottling, and unsurprisingly, the finish wants a bit of airing to fully express itself at this stage.

Technical Notes:

Bottled: April 2, 2013
Yield: 1.26 tons/acre
Total Acidity: 6.6 g/L
pH: 3.57
Alcohol: 14.1%

Aging:

Sixteen months in 60 gallon French oak barrels: 67% new; 50% from Tonnellerie Sirugue and 50% from Francois Freres

Release Date:

September 1, 2013

Grape Source:

Russian River Valley
Dutton Graton's Choice Vineyard:
Clone: Wente-Hyde Selection

Harvest:

October 1st at 23.3 degree Brix

Malolactic Fermentation:

100%

Bottling:

Unfined, unfiltered

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