



ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY CHARDONNAY

2021



TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION: Napa Valley

VARIETALS: 100% Chardonnay

ALCOHOL: 14.6% by vol.

PH: 3.34

TA: 5.4 g/L

AGING: 9 months in 20% new French oak

The Estate Collection is a series of limited-production wines available only at the Raymond Estate. Sourced from our finest estate vineyards and longtime vineyard partners, each wine represents our winemaking team's commitment to crafting wines worthy of our five-generation winemaking legacy in Napa Valley.

IN THE VINEYARD

The grapes for our Estate Collection Napa Valley Chardonnay are grown in a single vineyard in south Napa. They were harvested from three blocks and are a combination of Dijon and Clone 4. The grapes spend afternoons in temperatures warmer than the valley floor, but the mornings and evenings are spent in fog with cool, marine breezes ultimately helping to evenly ripen the grapes. This area is ideal for producing Chardonnay with bright acidity and creamy, citrus flavors.

ABOUT THE VINTAGE

2021 was a smooth and uneventful harvest season. June started out warm, followed by a cool and foggy July and August that slowed ripening and caused nice retention of acidity. Even ripening, with no extreme heat events, made for ideal growing conditions. Sparse winter rains resulted in an early budbreak, evenly developed clusters, and smaller berries packed full of flavor. Overall, the fruit was exceptional, making it another amazing year for quality.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKER

After whole cluster pressing the grapes, the juice was 100% barrel fermented with a mix of native and inoculated yeast. The wine was aged sur lie for 9 months in 20% new French oak barrels to provide true varietal complexity and a medium-plus body with more creaminess but maintaining good acidity.

WINE PROFILE

Fresh white peach with a touch of honeysuckle and lavender arises from the glass. Notes of orange zest, lemon and lime enhance the apricot and honey notes with a soft touch of brown sugar and white pepper. The mouthfeel is soft, luxurious, and nicely balanced with a refreshing and lingering.

