

T O R

TOR Chardonnay

Hudson Vineyard, Wente Clone, 2011

Blend: 100% Hudson selection Wente Clone Chardonnay

Production: 140 cases

Release date: February 2013

Vintage

2011 in Napa Valley was like a year in Burgundy. It was a cool year, started cool, stayed cool, and allowed for a lot of hang time. The net result; the smallest crop I can remember in 37 years, smaller than 1988, and that was a struggle. Nature thinned one of our vineyards to 1/8 ton per acre. We opened canopies to welcome the sun in all our vineyard sites, maximizing them and avoided any botrytis problems. In the end, I think these are as good as any Chardonnays we have made, but I like years like 2011 – it brought on all the minerality and the flavors go on forever. I was quoted in the Wine Spectator after the vintage as saying, “I think there will be some exceptional wines, but they won’t be because of luck,” said Tor Kenward of TOR Kenward Family Wines. “They will reflect experienced growers and winemakers who took adversity and turned it to their advantage.” I still believe this.

Vineyards

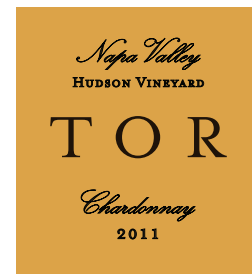
Lee Hudson is a meticulous farmer with a great piece of land. He has the advantage of location and rocky well-drained soils. Over the decades, Lee nurtured his vineyard, continuously fine-tuning his art, using heritage shot cluster clones, such as old Wente, and propagating his own selections from these shy-bearing clones. As vines were replaced over these years, Lee replaced them with plant material proven to make exceptional Chardonnays from Hudson Vineyard. Our block is one of the rockiest in the vineyard, a proven site with proven vines, in a great site for Chardonnay.

Winemaking

These Chardonnays were all made in a very traditional Burgundian fashion. What does that mean? For our Chardonnays we use native yeasts for primary and malolactic fermentations, we do not fine or filter the wines. We work hard to bring the most honest and truest expressions of the vineyard to you, with the least amount of additions or subtractions.

Winemaker’s Tasting Notes

The 2011 Hudson Vineyard Chardonnay is classic Hudson vineyard. This wine comes from a small block planted with Hudson selection Wente Clone. It shows the land and profile of the great Hudson Vineyard Chardonnays that have come before it. The orange peel, honey, and pineapple are classic Hudson Vineyard. This is medium weight but full and rich with outstanding presence and length on the finish. There is no reason to think that this wine should not age beautifully. Its balance and richness should see it through at least the next 3-5 years with no problem at all.



“... caresses the palate with bright lemon, white flowers, spices and crushed flowers. This classy, totally polished Chardonnay impresses for its sheer harmony and poise. The long, cold growing season balances some of the overttness from this selection of the Wente clone.”

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Antonio Galloni
The Wine Advocate
December 2012