

T O R

TOR Chardonnay Torchiana, Beresini Vineyards, 2011

Blend: 100% Hyde selection Wente Clone Chardonnay
Production: 200 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

Torchiana is my mother’s maiden name. Torki, as we called her, was a very lovely, very talented painter and actress, who encouraged all of us young Kenwards to be creative and listen to our muse. This is my homage to her. This wine comes from a single vineyard Larry Hyde introduced to me in 2008. It belonged to one of his oldest friends in the Napa Valley, Steve Beresini, and was planted nearly three decades ago with cuttings Larry gave Steve. We call this plant material – Hyde selection Wente Clone. Today it produces a minuscule crop, usually between one to two tons per acre, with clusters half the normal size.

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 Torchiana Chardonnay follows in line with previous efforts but shows the profile of the cooler vintage with its precise, very mineral driven profile. This is full weight with amazing acidity from the cool vintage which helps to balance out the wines richness and intensity. The palate on this wine really does not stop. Even 30-45 seconds after tasting it and swallowing you still have the flavors lingering. While this is drinking very well right now it should only get better over the next 3-5 years as it gains additional depth from bottle age. To date this might be my favorite Torchiana.



“... richer, deeper and weightier than the straight Hudson Chardonnay. It possesses lovely depth and raciness in its fruit, with hints of French oak that add volume. Voluptuous and beautifully balanced, the 2011 stands out for the way it balances overt notes of butter, orange blossom and sweet spices with considerable underlying minerality.”

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Antonio Galloni
The Wine Advocate
December 2012