

T O R



TOR Chardonnay Torchiana, Beresini Vineyards, 2012

Blend: 100% Hyde selection Wenté Clone Chardonnay
Production: 384 cases
Release date: February 2014

Vintage

It is funny, but “classic” and “perfect” are words bantered about a lot about this bountiful, beautiful vintage. To me it was “classic” growing conditions - early bud break, no frost damage, relatively dry spring, with less than an inch in April, then nothing till October, and less than an inch that final month of harvest. One heat spike in June, another in early October, but just beautiful otherwise, with very cool evenings and warm, idyllic days. It was a great year to be a farmer. A vintner had to beware, for after two very short crops in 2010 and 2011 - 2012 set a big crop that had to be thinned many times. We managed this crop religiously in all our vineyards, some with draconian vigor, and because of that, only can I roughly use the word, “perfect”. Man had to interfere to bring things into balance for what will easily be termed a great Napa Valley vintage.

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 three decades ago with cuttings Larry gave Steve. We call this plant material – Hyde Selection Wenté 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

Always the most “mineral” driven Chardonnay of the vintage from us - this one shows that quality yet again. The tiny berries that characterize this site when joined with dry farming create a white wine with the intensity and almost tannic richness of a red wine. This has an almost crystalline purity to the fruit with bright white flowers (jasmine) and an intensely long finish. This is the 2012 Chardonnay from TOR that will best reward time in the cellar, but with a rich white fish will shine on release.