

T O R



TOR Chardonnay Torchiana, Beresini Vineyards, 2013

Blend: 100% Hyde selection Wenté Clone Chardonnay
Production: 330 cases
Release date: February 2015

Vintage

It is rare, and I look back now on 38 harvests, to have two vintages like 2012 and 2013 next to each other. Both would qualify in Bordeaux terms as vintages of the century. Both started early, had long and relatively even growing seasons, both had average to above average (depending on site) crop levels. Both gave us or most of us the opportunity when to pick when we wanted, which meant levels of ripeness was up to us. Ripeness is subjective in winemaking, but to us very specific. Think of that perfect peach at the farmers market. The grower made sure the tree was not over cropped, sustainably farmed, and that each peach had the opportunity to get sweet and ripe. Ripe meant the fruit was still firm, has good acid and tooth aching sweetness. Like that farmer, we chose to pick the moment just after the seeds lose their greenness and just before the clusters start to soften and lose their magic. It is a small window, and in 2013 we found it again and again. Peachy keen.

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 (Old Vine chardonnay). 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 honest and true expressions of the vineyard to you, with the least amount of additions or subtractions.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The Torchiana Chardonnay has always been California meets Burgundy with the California intensity of fruit but the tremendous acidity of a great white Burgundy. This wine exhibits bright white flowers, lemon curd, tangerines and fabulous minerality. This is a white wine to actually decant, like you would a red wine. This is showing fantastic now but will not really hit its stride for another year or two and should age very easily for at least another five years.