

TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

HYDE VINEYARD

CHARDONNAY

2016

VINEYARD This vineyard is an extension of the man, Larry Hyde. For three decades he has had an intimate relationship with each vine in his vineyard, and in the process has built an international reputation as one of the best growers in the world. His research papers on plant (clonal material) are reference points for our industry. He is a humble man, very dry of wit, has a good appetite for excellent food and wine, and likes the company of sincere winemakers and growers. We are in a small section of the vineyard in the rolling hills of Carneros, planted to what he calls his 'Small Cluster Clone.' I stood in line for these grapes for 14 years, and I think you will agree the wait was well worth it. Not much crop from these vines, but stunning wine. Only three barrels.

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WINEMAKING Very Burgundian in style. Barrel fermented in small French cooperage, favoring premium three year air dried barrels. There is only about 20% new oak on this vineyard and is made up of the cooper Saury. Fermentations begin with native yeast strains for primary and secondary, and the wines receive the minimal amount of handling through the aging period. Bottled unfinned, unfiltered; we work hard to bring honest and true expression of the vineyard to you.

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WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES The Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay in 2016 is the most rich and unctuous yet from TOR. The aromatics are white peach with oyster shell, marmalade and delicate flower qualities that make this wine so distinct. On the palate this is very full weight but with amazing precision and balance. The higher acid levels that this site provides are balanced perfectly with the white fruits, lemon and more of the mineral qualities that are so great in this wine.

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VINTAGE We have now had five extraordinary vintages in a row, 2012-2016, all uniquely different, but all exhibit the hallmarks of excellence. 2015 and 2016 for us had the smallest crop levels of the run. In 2016 we averaged 30% down and in one Chardonnay vineyard up 70% loss due to small cluster set. We wish we had more grapes.

2016 was a longer growing season than 2015, with more up and down temperature ranges than any of the five great consecutive vintages. That said, when I examine the temperature graphs for 2016 I note that we did not have many days over 100, and average day and night temperatures in the low 60s. That is cool. In summary, 2016 was another drought year that helped trigger a small crop load. Our Chardonnays are very rich wines, very complex from the get-go. Will 2016 be the best vintage of the five? Honestly, for some of the wines I think it has a very good chance of being the alpha vintage. Time will tell.

CASES PRODUCED: 75

