

TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

CUVÉE SUSAN

CAREROS

2017

VINEYARD The 2017 Reserve Chardonnay is a selection of the three best barrels from the thirty-year-old, dry farmed, Hyde selection old Wente clone vines of the Beresini Vineyard in Carneros. The specific barrels selected demonstrated remarkable depth, concentration, great acidity and nuanced complexity.

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WINEMAKING Very Burgundian in style. Barrel fermented in small French cooperage, favoring premium three year dry-aged barrels. Fermentations begin with native yeast strains for primary and secondary, and the three small French barriques received the minimal amount of handling through the lengthy twenty-two-month aging period. Bottled unfiltered, unfiltered; we work hard to bring honest and true expression of the vineyard to you.

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WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES Once again, the Reserve Chardonnay Cuvée Susan is a stunner. This is complete and complex from beginning to end. On the nose there are loads of yellow flowers, honeysuckle, tangerines. The palate on this is one seamless impression. This is loaded with toast, orange and tangerine oil, quince and a seamless and complete finish.

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VINTAGE A vintage to be discussed for decades to come. The wines we made are beautiful, and the Chardonnays are our highest scoring whites to date. Our Cabernet family wines reflect great vintages, and the early barrel scores reach into the 100 point range. These reds have excellent extract; they are layered, downright sexy wines that have the structure to live a long time. I taste the wines and marvel.

It was a very wet spring, over 30 inches of rain in January and February alone. Spring bloom and set went smoothly and we rolled into the summer with heat spikes in July, late August, and early September. By early October, all the Chardonnays were in and the Cabernets were reaching optimum maturities. We dropped a lot of fruit in 2017, a cluster per shoot in To Kalon, and in part because of this, we had all our fruit in by mid-October. Then came the fires. With all our grapes in, they had no influence on our wines, but changed all our lives. The wines themselves are rays of sunlight when I reflect on 2017.

CASES PRODUCED: 75

