

TOR

NAPA VALLEY

CUVÉE TORCHIANA
BERESINI VINEYARD
CHARDONNAY
2021

VINEYARD This wine comes from a single three-acre Chardonnay vineyard Larry Hyde introduced to Tor 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 Wente Clone. Larry Hyde claims it is the shyest bearing clone he has propagated. Today it produces a minuscule crop in Steve's vineyard, usually between one to two tons per acre. The clusters are half the normal size of an average Chardonnay cluster, but the density and richness of the wines produced from these small clusters is undeniable.

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WINEMAKING Very Burgundian in style. Barrel fermented in small French cooperage, favoring premium three-year dry aged barrels at a medium toast level. The single new French barrel coopers used are Saury and Damy. Fermentations begin with native yeast 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 an honest and true expression of the vineyard to you.

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WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES Our 2021 Beresini Vineyard Chardonnay is a true textural experience. On the nose, beautiful notes of jasmine, white peach and chamomile tea abound. The palate is rich and round, with crème brulee, almond, and a long, silky finish. There's a certain tension to the 2021 Chardonnays that leaves us with the impression that these may be some of the finest we've produced.

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VINTAGE The 2021 growing season began with January, February, and March rains totaling close to eight inches. The ground water led to more canopy than the previous warm 2020, but all our sites are well drained and did not need significant canopy management. The vines were healthy, but crop set was small, 20%-25% off normal, less than the previous four years. The summer was dry, no significant rains until October. By harvest, the clusters were uniformly small, provided high skin to juice ratio, giving us wines with structure wrapped around a core of dense fruit. In the barrel, these wines evolved slowly. After 20 months in barrel, the wines represent what we consider an outstanding Napa Valley vintage.

Our 2021 Chardonnays are some of our best, with infinite texture and flavor, yet their complexities and finesse prove they will evolve for decades – an ideal vintage.

