

T O R

TOR Chardonnay Durell Vineyard, Wente Clone, 2009

Blend: 100% Wente Clone Chardonnay

Production: 140 cases

Release date: April 2011

Vintage

Looking back to the season as a whole, it represents one of the most uniform weather growing season patterns I can remember. Both Jeff Ames and I agree, had it not been for a mid-October warm rainy storm, this vintage would be recognized as one of California's great vintages. All of our Chardonnay was picked at optimum maturity levels before this mid October storm, and we look at these as some of the best Chardonnays we have made. In other words, as most of our peers would chime in, 2009 is a great a vintage for Chardonnay.

Vineyard

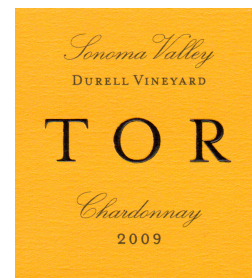
For several decades Durell Vineyard has been renowned as one of California's premier Chardonnay vineyards. I have followed the Kistler bottlings for over a decade and marveled at the richness and minerality of each wine. They scream of Durell's terrior. For California winemakers the Wente clone is synonymous with small crops and small berries. This translates to a high skin-to-flesh ratio, which translates into a high concentration of varietal flavor. The soil in our Durell block is goulding sandy clay loam. This soil is rich with diatomaceous earth and millions of years ago was probably a sand bar in the middle of a prehistoric lake. We picked our block on Sand Hill at Durell on September 12.

Winemaking

These Chardonnays were all made in a very traditional Burgundian fashion. What does that mean? For our Chardonnays we do not inoculate for either alcoholic or malolactic fermentation, we do not fine nor filter the wines and we try to bring the most honest and true expression of the vineyard to you as we can.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

As usual, the Durell Chardonnay has the most brioche/butter/ and honeysuckle on the nose. On the palate, this is the richest Durell by far; smooth with no hard edges (only real competition would be the '07). We sense a touch more of an almost oyster shell/saline quality. The finish on this wine does not want to stop. The best Durell to date with the richness of the '07 and the precision of the '05.



"...exhibits aromas and flavors of honeysuckle, unbuttered popcorn, crushed rocks, tangerines and white currants presented in a full-bodied, wonderfully perfumed, complex style. The wine reveals impressive fruit levels as well as a blossoming complexity."

(92-94) Robert Parker's
Wine Advocate Dec. 2010