

T O R

TOR Chardonnay Hudson Vineyard, Wente Clone, 2009

Blend: 100% Hudson selection Wente Clone Chardonnay

Production: 160 cases

Release date: April 2011

Vintage

Looking back to the season as a whole, it represents one of the most uniform growing season weather 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 late 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

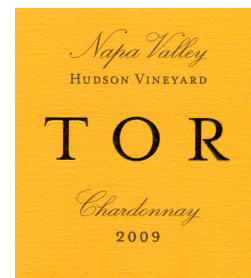
Lee Hudson is a meticulous farmer with a great piece of land. He has the advantage of location, location, and rocky well-drained soils. Over the decades, Lee nurtured his vineyard, continually fine-tuning his art, using heritage shot cluster clones, such as old Wente, and propagating his own selections from these shy bearing clones. As vines were replaced over these years, Lee replaced them with plant material proven to make exceptional Chardonnays from Hudson Vineyard. Our block is one of the rockiest in the vineyard, a proven site with proven vines, in a great site for Chardonnay.

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

This is the first Hudson for us since the wildly popular 2006 Cuvee Molly. This comes from the same block of the Hudson Vineyard that made the Molly in 2006. The nose on this wine simply screams Hudson Vineyard. Big and rich perhaps more floral than the Durell. There is always a touch of jasmine in Hudson Chardonnay and this one has it as well. On the palate this wine is seamless and smooth. That might be a quality that sticks out the most- complete seamless integration of fruit/tannin/wood. It is just one silky-smooth impression on the palate.



"...displays a more exotic tropical fruit note intermixed with roasted hazelnuts, pineapples, mango and buttery citrus. It has the same size and texture of the Durell cuvée, but a completely different aromatic and flavor profile."

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