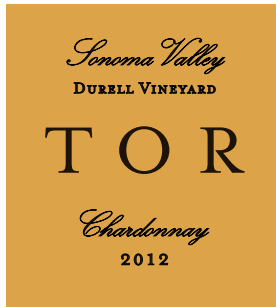


T O R



TOR Chardonnay Durell Vineyard, Wente Clone, 2012

Blend: 100% Wente Clone Chardonnay
Production: 144 cases
Release date: February 2014

Vintage

It is funny, but “classic” and “perfect” are words bantered about a lot about this bountiful, beautiful vintage. To me it was “classic” growing conditions - early bud break, no frost damage, relatively dry spring, with less than an inch in April, then nothing till October, and less than an inch that final month of harvest. One heat spike in June, another in early October, but just beautiful otherwise, with very cool evenings and warm, idyllic days. It was a great year to be a farmer. A vintner had to beware, for after two very short crops in 2010 and 2011 - 2012 set a big crop that had to be thinned many times. We managed this crop religiously in all our vineyards, some with draconian vigor, and because of that, only can I roughly use the word, “perfect”. Man had to interfere to bring things into balance for what will easily be termed a great Napa Valley vintage.

Vineyards

Durell has built a rock solid reputation for decades as one of California’s premier vineyards. Our block is on the famed “Sand Hill” part of the vineyard, looking down on the Sonoma Valley. The soil is Goulding clay loam, mixed with diatomaceous earth, and millions of years ago formed a sand bar reaching into the prehistoric lake that covered the town of Sonoma. Like Kistler and a few other winemakers, we favor the “Wente Clone” in this vineyard, which is a selection of plant material that sets a small crop with small berries. The result is high skin-to-flesh ratio, great concentration of varietal character.

Winemaking

These Chardonnays were all made in a very traditional Burgundian fashion. What does that mean? For our Chardonnays we use native yeasts for primary and malolactic fermentations, we do not fine or filter the wines. We work hard to bring the most honest and true expressions of the vineyard to you, with the least amount of additions or subtractions.

Winemaker’s Tasting Notes

The 2012 Durell is the best we have had since 2009. This wine shows the richness and density that we expect, as well as the lemon curd, cream and honeysuckle. Durell is always one of the more plush Chardonnays that we make each year, and this is one of those years. This is showing well now but with the intensity and depth of the fruit should age quite well for at least another 5 years and if like earlier vintages – beyond.