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TOR Chardonnay

Napa Valley, Reserve, Cuvée Susan, 2015

BLEND: 100% HERITAGE SELECTION CHARDONNAY

PRODUCTION: 100 CASES | RELEASE DATE: FEBRUARY 2017

Vintage

Wiz-Bam-Boom – defines the 2015 vintage in Napa Valley. We ended up with a bunch of precocious “whiz” kids as far as wines we made – amazing potential. I’m dying to see how they shape up once they get through college and out into the real world. “Bam” – it happened so fast. One of the earliest vintages on record, though we did start very early. “Boom” – that is what happened to the grape set. The cool weather during the flowering period in the spring blew up a lot of gapes that never set. The crop for us averaged 35% less in 2015 than normal, far less than the prior three vintages, 2012, 2013, and 2014. What was also important because of the uneven set and ripening, was modern wine-making equipment like the optical sorters which we used to reduce the crop size even more, but allowed us to discard under or over ripe grapes. The colors in the resulting wines are dark on the reds, palate staining on the whites, and great depth of flavor on the wine we have tasted after going through all our barrels. Just wish we had more.

Vineyards

For the 2015 Reserve Chardonnay we knew that we wanted to begin with a base of the 2015 Torchiana Chardonnay since its blend of richness with great acidity would be a fantastic starting point. The question was how much as the base and then how much of the Hyde and Durell (and would both even make it in?). It took us several trials where some blends worked and some didn’t work at all. Eventually, we fine-tuned the blend to the finished blend to show the best of all sites, yet showing better than any did on their own. Then we chose the best barrels of each lot to create a true Reserve Chardonnay.

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 wines receive the minimal amount of handling through the aging period. Bottled unfinned, unfiltered; we work hard to bring honest and true expression of the vineyard to you.

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 an absolutely seamless and complete finish.

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