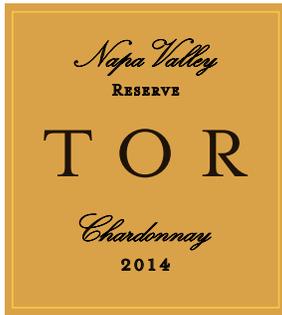


T O R



TOR Chardonnay Reserve, Cuvée Susan, 2014

100% Heritage Selection Chardonnay
Production: 350 cases
Release date: February 2016

Vintage

Well, yet another great vintage. The question for me is how will it fit in as time passes with the other the recent greats; 2012, 2013, and 2015. There is not a weak sister here. These are vibrant, different vintages and any one of them could go all the way to the Super Bowl of wine, whatever that is. So let's take a look at the personalities and handicap them. 2012; abundant, round rich full bodied from beginning to now: has not missed a beat. 2013; more sinew and structure, needing more time but delicious just the same from beginning but not as evolved early on as 2012. 2014; to me it is stuck someplace in the middle personality-wise between 2012 and 2013. It has more structure than 2012, more flesh than 2013. It may be a vintage like 1995, which surpassed the more headlined 1994. Dry winter, wet spring, long even growing season, easy harvest – not as abundant a crop as 2012 and 2013. Sleeper vintage that I think with time will hold its own against its good looking brothers and sisters.

Vineyards

For the 2014 Reserve Chardonnay we knew that we wanted to begin with a base of the 2014 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. Primary coopers – Saury, Remond and Francois Freres. Fermentations begin with native yeast strains for primary and secondary, and the wines receive the minimal amount of handling thru the aging period. Bottled unfiltered, unfiltered; we work hard to bring honest and true expression of the vineyard to you.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

This is the first Reserve Chardonnay from TOR, so you know we are crazy about it. This is a best barrel blend of Torchiana, Durell and Hyde. As such, it shows the oily richness from Durell, the vibrant acidity of the Hyde and the intense mid-palate weight of the Torchiana. Without question a candidate for the best Chardonnay we have ever made. A true benchmark California Chardonnay.