

TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

CUVÉE SUSAN
HYDE VINEYARD
CHARDONNAY
2021

VINEYARD This vineyard is an extension of the man, Larry Hyde. For three decades he has had an intimate relationship with this iconic vineyard, and in the process has built an international reputation as one of the best Chardonnay growers in the world. His research papers on plant (clonal material) are reference points for our industry. He is a humble man, very dry of wit, has a good appetite for excellent food and wine, and likes the company of sincere winemakers and growers.

We are in a small section of the vineyard in the rolling hills of Carneros, planted to what he calls his 'Small Cluster Clone.' Tor stood in line for these grapes for 14 years, and we think you will agree the wait was well worth it. Not much crop from these vines, but the wines are exceptional. In 2019 we added another small block of Calera Clone Chardonnay, which lends an added dimension to our Hyde Chardonnays.

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WINEMAKING Very Burgundian in style. Barrel fermented in small French cooperage, favoring premium three-year air-dried barrels. There is only about 20% new oak on this vineyard, and it is made up of the coopers Saury and Damy. 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 an honest and true expression of the vineyard to you.

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WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES This may be one of the most stunning renditions of Cuvée Susan we have made. It is classically Burgundian, with a nose of honeysuckle, tangerine peel, crushed rock and gunflint. The palate is seamless, with creamy peaches, citrus oil and racy acidity that demands a long finish. An old-world chardonnay from the new world with precision, focus, and unparalleled purity.

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VINTAGE The 2021 growing season began with January, February, and March rains totaling close to eight inches. The ground water led to more canopy than the previous warm 2020, but all our sites are well-drained and did not need significant canopy management. The vines were healthy, but crop set was small, 20%-25% off from normal, less than the previous four years. The summer was dry, no significant rains until October. By harvest, the clusters were uniformly small, provided high skin to juice ratio, giving us wines with structure wrapped around a core of dense fruit. In the barrel, these wines evolved slowly. After 20 months in barrel, the wines represent what we consider an outstanding Napa Valley vintage.

Our 2021 Chardonnays are some of our best, with infinite texture and flavor, yet their complexities and finesse prove they will evolve for decades – an ideal vintage.

