

# TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

## DURELL VINEYARD

CHARDONNAY

2018

**VINEYARD** 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 Gouling clay loam, mixed with diatomaceous earth, and millions of years ago formed a sand bar reaching into the prehis-toric lake that covered the town of Sonoma. Like Kistler Chardonnay, 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.

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**WINEMAKING** Very Burgundian in style. Barrel fermented in small French cooperage, favoring premium three year dry aged barrels at a Medium toast level. The single new barrel cooper used is Saury. Fermentations begin with native yeast 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.

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**WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES** The 2018 Durell Vineyard Chardonnay exhibits rich heavy cream, wet hay/grass and magnolia blossoms aromatically.

The palate is completely seamless with medium to full weight, Meyer lemon, intently young early press EVOO and a seemingly endless finish.

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**VINTAGE** Might go down as one of the greats -however, I did hear from some winemakers how very long the vintage played out, and bone ass tired some were when it finally ended. But quality loves long, long vintages with lots of hang time, and 2018 had hang time. It all began in late February and went deep into October.

**CASES PRODUCED:** 130

**RETAIL BOTTLE PRICE:** \$80

