



T O R

TOR Chardonnay

Napa Valley, Torchiana, Beresini Vineyard, 2015

BLEND: 100% HYDE SELECTION WENTE CLONE CHARDONNAY

PRODUCTION: 300 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 winemaking 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.

Winemaking

Very Burgundian in style. Barrel fermented in small French cooperage, favoring premium three year dry-aged barrels. Primary coopers – Saury, Remond and three year dry aged Francois Frères. 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.

Vineyard

Torchiana is my mother’s maiden name. Torcki, as we called her, was a very lovely, very talented painter and actress, who encouraged all of us young Kenwards to be creative and listen to our muse. This is my homage to her. This wine comes from a single three-acre Chardonnay vineyard Larry Hyde introduced to me in 2008. It belonged to one of his oldest friends in the Napa Valley, Steve Beresini, and was planted three decades ago with cuttings Larry gave Steve. We call this plant material – Hyde Selection Wente Clone (Old Vine chardonnay). Today it produces a minuscule crop, usually between one to two tons per acre, with clusters half the normal size.

Winemaker’s Tasting Notes

This is always a favorite among the lineup due to the intensity that the old dry farmed vines provide this wine. The aromatics here are more white flowers, sweet cream, lemon oil and crystallized ginger. The palate is very rich and full with terrific background acidity. The palate reveals some wet stone, mango, and tails off to an amazingly long finish.

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