

TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

BERESINI VINEYARD, TORCHIANA

CHARDONNAY

2016

VINEYARD Torchiana is my mother's maiden name. Torki, 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 Wenté Clone (Old Vine chardonnay). Today it produces a minuscule crop, usually between one to two tons per acre, with clusters half the normal size.

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

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, honeysuckle, lemon oil and crystallized ginger. The palate is very rich and full with terrific background acidity. The palate reveals some wet stone, tangerine, and tails off to an amazingly long smooth finish.

VINTAGE We have now had five extraordinary vintages in a row, 2012-2016, all uniquely different, but all exhibit the hallmarks of excellence. 2015 and 2016 for us had the smallest crop levels of the run. In 2016 we averaged 30% down and in one Chardonnay vineyard a 70% loss due to small cluster set. We wish we had more grapes.

2016 was a longer growing season than 2015, with more up and down temperature ranges than any of the five great consecutive vintages. That said, when I examine the temperature graphs for 2016 I note that we did not have many days over 100 and average day and night temperatures in the low 60s. That is cool. In summary, 2016 was another drought year that helped trigger a small crop load. Our Chardonnays are very rich wines, very complex from the get-go. Will 2016 be the best vintage of the five for chardonnay? Honestly, for some of the wines I think it has a very good chance of being the alpha vintage. Time will tell.

CASES PRODUCED: 375

