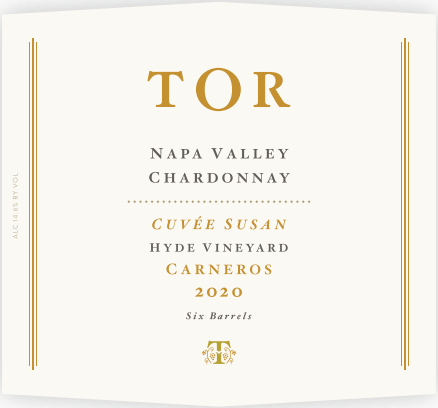
TOR

NAPA VALLEY

HYDE VINEYARD
CHARDONNAY
2020

VINEYARD This vineyard is an extension of the man, Larry Hyde. For three decades he has had an intimate relationship with each vine in his vineyard, and in the process has built an international reputation as one of the best 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.' I stood in line for these grapes for 14 years, and I think you will agree the wait was well worth it. Not much crop from these vines, but stunning wine. In 2019 we added another small block of Calera Clone Chardonnay, which lends another dimension to our Hyde bottlings.



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 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 unfined, unfiltered; we work hard to bring an honest and true expression of the vineyard to you.

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES The 2020 Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay exhibits crushed oyster shell, honeysuckle, almond and white flowers/wisteria. The palate is very lifted and bright with mandarin orange rind, lemon oil and extreme focus and precision that trails off into a finish that just begs for crab legs or lobster.

VINTAGE Let's get this out of the way to start. 2020 was the most difficult vintage out of the 44 I've been a Napa Valley vintner. The main culprit two fires that burned on for weeks and shaped the vintage in ways I have never witnessed before. Because of this we did not make any Napa Valley Red wines. Despite this we made two very beautiful white wines, unaffected by the fires. This was our Phoenix, and candidly we love them. Both.

The only sad news is the crop was minuscule, and we only made half of our normal production, which as most of you know is very small. But what we made we are very proud of and, frankly love the wines whenever we can open them – which is never enough for me.

CASES PRODUCED: 180

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