



2011 CHARDONNAY

Mitsuko's Vineyard, Carneros, Napa Valley

MITSUKO'S VINEYARD, located south of Highway 121 in the cooler part of Carneros, has an abundance of ideal sites for Chardonnay. Since its purchase as bare land in 1989, we have continually refined our plantings to optimize the wine grape quality potential of each block by determining the best clones to match each soil type. Thus, our Chardonnay blend continues to evolve towards greater heights every year.

HARVEST NOTES

2011 began with a cooler-than-average spring accompanied by intermittent. Following delays in fruit-set, warmer summer temperatures moved grape maturity forward ideally through veraison. Rains began again in early October requiring extra work in the vineyard to remove leaves and damaged clusters. Thankfully, our estate vineyards' well-drained soil allowed us to make it to harvest without any quality impact. Our vigilance and determination resulted in a small crop of high-quality fruit demonstrating great freshness, vibrancy and balance.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Our Chardonnay was hand harvested at night with table sorting of clusters in the vineyard under high-intensity lamps. The grapes arrived at the winery for immediate gentle whole-cluster pressing. Juice was racked into barrels, and primary fermentation proceeded slowly. After fermentation, the new wines were inoculated with a malolactic bacteria strain which naturally deacidified the wine without production of buttery flavors and aromas that can detract from our estate-fruit personality. The wines were stirred frequently and aged sur lie for 8 months without racking.

TASTING NOTES

Our 2011 Mitsuko's Vineyard Chardonnay possesses compelling and complex aromas of intense ripe nectarines, Macoun apples, tangelos, white honeysuckle, fennel pollen and beeswax, framed by subtly toasty oak. An intense and vibrant mid-palate has vivid fruit flavors, and the finish is long with richness and minerality.

TECHNICAL INFO

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

100% Chardonnay

CLONES

Dijon clones: 76, 95, 96, 548, & 809

UCD clones: 04, 17

Massale selections: Old Wente, Atlas Peak Weimer, Robert Young

VINEYARD

100% Mitsuko's Vineyard, Carneros, Napa Valley

AVERAGE VINE AGE

16 years

SOIL

Cole Silt Loam, Haire Clay Loam, Haire Loam and Diablo Clay

HARVEST DATES

September 29–October 14

FERMENTATION

100% barrel fermented

MALOLACTIC

100%

AGING

8 months in 33% new French oak

BOTTLING DATE

July 2012

ALCOHOL

14.2%

RESIDUAL SUGAR

0.15%