



## 2021 “SAVOIR FAIRE” NAPA VALLEY CHARDONNAY

“Savoir Faire” Chardonnay is named for the French phrase “knowing how to do something well” and represents our finest barrels of Chardonnay from the vintage

HARVESTED	September 9 - 17, 2021
VINEYARDS	50% Waters Ranch and 50% Stagecoach
BARREL AGE	18 months in two François Frères puncheons and one François Frères barrel
BOTTLED	March 22, 2023
COMPOSITION	100% Chardonnay
ALCOHOL	14.7%
WINEMAKER	Katie Vogt
RELEASE DATE	October 2023
PRODUCTION	111 cases

### WINEMAKING

In the phenomenal 2021 vintage, we were incredibly fortunate to have several standout lots contending for the title of Savoir Faire. Two lots that consistently rose to the top of my notes were Block 34 at Waters Ranch and Block GM5 at Stagecoach. Both blocks are variations of the Old Wente clone and showcase two extraordinary mountain sites. Both vineyards were harvested within a week of each other in mid-September. Although beautiful on their own, when blended together, they became truly spectacular. The Waters Ranch lot possessed a laser focus of acidity and a vibrant honeysuckle aroma, while the lot from Stagecoach contributed a signature apricot and melted honey character. We cellar-blended the two in May 2022, racking from barrel and incorporating some light, fluffy lees to age on. Two puncheons and one standard barrel, all from François Frères, were aged as a complete blend for an additional year, totaling 18 months on oak. The wine was bottled unfiltered. – Katie Vogt

### WINEMAKER IMPRESSIONS

Captivating the senses from the first pour, the 2021 Pahlmeyer Savoir Faire Chardonnay reveals itself in layers, effortlessly balancing power and finesse. The nose entices with ethereal notes of orange blossom and honeysuckle interwoven with the warmth of toasted almonds and brioche. As the aromatics unfold, hints of apricot and flambéed pear emerge, enhanced by a delicate dusting of baking spice. The palate is enveloped in a rich, velvety texture with a melted honey opulence. Bright acidity creates a harmonious counterpoint, interlacing beautifully with nutty oak undertones. A focused core of preserved lemon surges through the finish, elevated by a subtle, lingering whisper of vanilla bean. With its seamless integration of acidity and structure, this Chardonnay promises to age gracefully, while undeniably captivating in its youth. – KV

### VINTAGE NOTES

2021 was a remarkable growing year. All of our vineyards expressed themselves in their purest form. There was a lot of distinct character, block to block, which allowed us to create truly unique, interesting, and compelling wines. An arid year resulted in meager yields throughout our vineyards, fewer clusters, and tiny berries giving us gorgeous concentration. While it was an early vintage, gentle weather throughout the growing season allowed the vineyards to develop steadily and fully, resulting in intense, complex fruit. The berries retained naturally high acidity levels, and with low yields and small berries, they achieved a concentrated tannin profile. That ideal combination of acidity and tannin – with a pure, powerful fruit core – indicates this will be an age-worthy vintage.

“Scents of crushed stone, pencil shavings and pineapple.... It’s medium to full-bodied but tightly coiled, citrusy and long on the finish, adding hints of charred mocha and caramel.” **95 - 97+**. Joe Czerwinski, *Wine Advocate*, May 4, 2023