



2016 “SAVOIR FAIRE” NAPA VALLEY CHARDONNAY

COMPOSITION		100% Chardonnay
VINEYARDS		Pahlmeyer Estate & Antica
HARVESTED		September 13 - 20, 2016
ALCOHOL		15%
BOTTLED		March 26, 2018
PRODUCTION		90 cases

WINEMAKING

We harvested grapes for this wine in the cool of the night from late-ripening, low-yielding vineyard blocks. At the winery, we hand-sorted and gently pressed the berries as whole clusters, then racked the free-run juice into new French oak barrels for primary and malolactic fermentation with wild yeast. The special barrel selection was then aged for twenty months in 100% new French oak.

TASTING NOTES

This bold Chardonnay, from the best barrels of the 2016 vintage, reveals rich golden color in the glass. Elegant aromas of butterscotch, honeysuckle, and orange blossom mingle with hints of brioche, Jordan almonds, roasted nuts and meringue. On the palate, juicy, concentrated fruit characters are balanced by a creamy mouthfeel and accented by notes of cardamom, cloves, and vanilla from fermentation in new French oak puncheons. This is a complex wine that maintains its tension over a lingering finish.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2016 budbreak was right on time, after several years of early onset; bloom occurred mid-May to early June. Summer brought consistent, moderate weather for optimal development of flavors across all varieties. Our precision timing in the vineyard became crucial during harvest, when we experienced a heat spike in mid-September. We took extra care in hand-sorting the fruit and used 100% free-run juice, resulting in wines of intensity and complexity—another standout vintage.

ACCLAIM

“Bottled in March 2018, the 2016 Chardonnay Savoir Faire features a gregarious nose of green mangoes, yuzu zest, lemongrass and lime leaves over a core of pink grapefruit, nectarines and Bosc pears plus a waft of lightly browned toast. Medium-bodied, it fills the palate with creamy stone fruit and pears notions, lifted by a lively line and finishing on an almondy note.” 95 points, Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate