



2017 WINEMAKER NOTES

Our 2017 Family Select Chardonnay is sourced from sustainably farmed vineyards in the Oak Knoll District and Carneros, two distinct south-Napa Valley appellations. Blending wines from these cool-climate regions and fermenting and aging the fruit in a combination of French and American oak barrels endow this Chardonnay with a broad spectrum of aromas and flavors. This medium-bodied, beautifully textured wine shows bright fruit notes of Red Delicious apple, Meyer lemon, honeydew melon and tropical fruit layered with hints of toasty oak, vanilla, cinnamon spice and toasted almond. The wine was stirred on the lees twice a week for six months, lending it a creamy, mouth-filling texture. There's also a note of butterscotch from partial malolactic fermentation, but the natural acidity keeps the overall impression crisp and refreshing.

ALL THE FACTS

Appellation: *Napa Valley*

Varietal: *100% Chardonnay*

Cases Produced: *1000*

Aging: *7 months in French (86%) & American (14%) oak barrels*

Suggested Retail Price: *\$36*

Enjoyability: *Drink now through 2021 for optimum enjoyment.*

ON THE VINE

2017 began with winter rain, and lots of it, enough to fill reservoirs, replenish groundwater and bring a five year drought in California to an end. Our spring weather was mild, and due to the abundance of water the vines experienced vigorous growth. We were vigilant about canopy management, going through our vineyards and removing excess leaves to ensure the developing grapes had adequate sunlight and air flow. With just a few summer heat spikes, it first appeared that harvest would proceed at a normal pace, but a heat wave over Labor Day weekend hastened picking during the first two weeks of September. Cooler temperatures arrived in mid-September, giving our red fruit extra time on the vine. Overall though, harvest was early in 2017; the last of Flora Springs' grapes were harvested on Saturday, October 7.

Note to the reader: The infamous wildfires that swept through Napa Valley started on October 8, 2017, just one day after Flora Springs had completed its harvest. For more on the 2017 harvest and fires, please visit our blog at FloraSprings.com.