



SAINTSBURY

2007 Carneros Chardonnay

- Clones: 10% clone 4, 25% Dijon 95 and 96, 25% Wente, 40% miscellaneous clones
- Whole cluster press, barrel fermented using native and commercial yeast for primary fermentation
- Taransaud and François Frères barrels with 20% new French oak
- Complete malo-lactic fermentation and lightly stirred throughout
- 15,200 cases bottled unfiltered in June 2008

Chardonnay, Chardonnay, Chardonnay—what is left to say about it? Chardonnay makes the most well known white wines in the world, yet many revile it solely for its ubiquity. There are so many versions that it is hard to define exactly what Chardonnay's signature characteristics are. All we can do is describe what we try to do when we make Chardonnay: balanced, lively, complex—got that Goldilocks not-too-much, not-too-little thing going on. In 2007, we created a dedicated winery facility to improve our ability to produce Chardonnay the way we want to. So, here is what we do, and here is what results.

First, we start with Chardonnay grapes grown in Carneros, a region perfectly suited by climate and soils to grow flavorsome raw material. Then we bring the grapes to the new winery, which has lots of tools that give us a whole palette of options:

- *A big press, so every cluster is pressed without crushing*
- *Tanks that rapidly cool the juice and allow it to settle clear for fermentation*
- *A cold room big enough to allow us to lay out the barrels and look after each one individually*

The result is:

- *A wine fermented and aged in oak that is not oaky*
- *A wine that completes malo-lactic fermentation that would not be mistaken for buttered popcorn*
- *A wine with lots of fruit on the nose and the palate, but not a fruit bomb*
- *A wine that is flavorful but not heavy*

And to top it all off (literally and figuratively), we made the move to screwtops. The 2007 Carneros Chardonnay joins Garnet and Vin Gris in the move to the 21st century.



Grip it and rip it.

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