



# SAINTSBURY

## 2010 BROWN RANCH CHARDONNAY



### VINEYARD

In 1990, we purchased Brown Ranch, originally a hayfield and Percheron horse farm. A section of eight acres was planted to Chardonnay Dijon clones. Our first harvest was in 1995. The Estate is located amid the rolling hills in the “banana belt” of Carneros and is certified Napa Green.

Appellation: Carneros, Napa

Clones: Dijon 95 and 96

*Terroir:* A mix of loam and clay soil, hillside locations ideal for drainage. The Carneros “banana belt” refers to the regions warm days and cool evening, providing optimal growing conditions.

### VINTAGE 2010

Characterized by a cool growing season which produced slow ripening, low-yielding, high quality fruit. An Indian Summer aided in the full and final development of the grapes on the vine, resulting in perfectly concentrated fruit coming in at Harvest.

Harvest Date: October 1<sup>st</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010

### WINEMAKING

After night harvesting, the fruit from Brown Ranch travels just a few miles down Old Sonoma Road to Saintsbury. From there, each block remains separate going directly to a gentle whole cluster press then barrel fermentation. After 9 months in French oak barrels we rack the wine to a stainless steel tank with the fine lees. The blend marries in this anaerobic environment for six additional months further enhancing the terroir-driven minerality of the Brown Ranch Chardonnay site.

*Aging:* Complete malolactic fermentation with judicious batonnage in 30% new French oak barrels (François Frères and Taransaud) for 9 months.

Alcohol: 14%

Case Production: 294

### TASTING NOTES

Light straw in color, with aromas of citrus, chamomile, key lime pie and verbena. A lively entry with length and great balance. Underlying notes of mineral and gunflint coupled with brioche on the finish.

Pairings: Fish, Salad and Select Cheeses.

### REVIEWS

90pts, Connoisseurs' Guide, 9/2013

“A Napa Wine Producer We Love,” Food & Wine Magazine, 1/2013

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Saintsbury is the leading producer of fine Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.