



2011 CHARDONNAY

Hommage, Mitsuko's Vineyard, Carneros, Napa Valley

MITSUKO'S VINEYARD, located south of Highway 121 in the cooler part of Napa Carneros, has an abundance of ideal sites for Chardonnay. Since its purchase as bare land in 1989, we have continually refined our plantings to optimize the wine grape quality potential of each block, thus our Chardonnay blend continues to evolve towards greater heights every year.

HARVEST NOTES

2011 began with a cooler-than-average spring accompanied by intermittent rain. Following delays in fruit-set, warmer summer temperatures moved grape maturity forward ideally through veraison. Rains began again in early October requiring extra work in the vineyard to remove leaves and damaged clusters. Thankfully, our estate vineyards' well-drained soil allowed us to make it to harvest without any quality impact. Our vigilance and determination resulted in a small crop of high-quality fruit demonstrating great freshness, vibrancy and balance.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Our Hommage Chardonnay was night harvested and delivered cold for immediate, gentle, whole cluster *Champenoise*-style pressing. Juice was racked into barrels, and fermentation proceeded slowly in our cellar. After fermentation, the new wines were inoculated with a malolactic bacteria strain which naturally deacidifies and stabilizes the wine without production of buttery flavors that can detract from our estate fruit personality. Individual wine lots were stirred frequently and aged *sur lie* for 18 months without racking.

TASTING NOTES

This golden hued wine possesses exotic and heady aromas of baked quince, *tarte tatin*, narcissus flowers, beeswax and spice. Expansive on the palate, its broad texture, intensity of flavor and pitch-perfect acidity lead into a finish of great length and stylish minerality.

LABEL ART

The label for our 2011 vintage pays homage to Dado (Miodrag Đurić). Born in 1933 in Montenegro, Dado relocated to France, where he befriended Jean Dubuffet and Roberto Matta and turned his talents towards Surrealism. Dado's paintings are a search for the essence of energy, abandoning details in favor of colorful, dynamic compositions.



TECHNICAL INFO

VINTAGE

2011

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

100% Chardonnay

VINEYARD

100% Mitsuko's Vineyard,
Carneros, Napa Valley

AVERAGE VINE AGE

21 years

SOIL

Diablo Clay and Haire Clay Loam

MASSALE SELECTIONS

Old Wente massale selection

HARVEST DATES

Septmeber 30 – October 10

FERMENTATION

100% barrel fermented

MALOLACTIC

100% inoculated

AGING

18 months in 72% new French oak

BOTTLING DATE

June 2013

ALCOHOL

14.5%

PRODUCTION

488 cases

OPTIMUM DRINKING

Now—2020