

Cakebread Cellars



2018 Chardonnay, Cuttings Wharf Vineyard Carneros Napa Valley

Vineyards

In our Cuttings Wharf vineyard, in the Carneros district of southern Napa Valley, we cultivate six high quality French clones of chardonnay, all planted in the shallow clay loam soils of the gently rolling eastern reaches of the region. Foggy mornings and cool afternoons keep acidity in perfect balance – ideal for chardonnay. In 2018 we blended small berries from four of our Cuttings Wharf Vineyard clones (45% Dijon 76, 42% Dijon 96, 10% Dijon 124, and 3% Wente Hyde) to create this fresh, rich wine—a beautiful expression of a special place.

Vintage 2018

The 2018 growing season was a dream come true. Early spring rains replenished the soils, and clusters ripened evenly over a long, slow summer. The weather was cooler than usual and without heat spikes, so grapes reached full maturity right on target for harvest. Chardonnay yields at harvest were abundant and of very high quality.

Winemaking

We harvested chardonnay grapes for this wine during the cool night hours, and pressed the grapes as whole clusters to extract pure varietal character with exquisitely balanced sugars and acid. We fermented 100% of the juice in French oak barrels, with 90% native yeast fermentation. In addition, 3% went through a secondary, malolactic fermentation to add subtle creaminess. The wine aged 15 months sur lie (on the yeast lees) in 32% new French oak, 8% concrete egg, and 9% puncheon. Puncheon aging offers a very subtle oak influence on the wine for fresh fruit character, while aging in concrete eggs softens the acidity and enhances the wine's body and mouthfeel.

Tasting Notes

On the nose, perfumed floral aromas mingle with notes of sweet golden apple and peach. The palate offers flavors of pear, white peach, and lively citrus accented by hints of vanilla-spiced apple tart. Full-bodied structure and bright acidity supports this wine over a fresh finish that lingers with the suggestion of fresh apple and minerals. This single-vineyard Napa Valley chardonnay is delicious now and will continue to develop beautifully in bottle for another 3-5 years.

Grape variety: 100% Chardonnay

Vineyards: Carneros, Napa Valley, Cuttings Wharf Vineyard

Harvest dates: September 10th, 2018 – September 18th, 2018

Fermentation: 100% barrel, 3% malolactic, 90% native yeast fermentation

Aging: 100% aged 15 months; 32% new French oak; 8% concrete egg; 9% puncheon with periodic stirring of the yeast lees

Alcohol: 14.10%

Total acidity: 0.69g/100ml

pH: 3.42

Bottled: January, 2020

Winemaker: Stephanie Jacobs