



2008 Estate Chardonnay – Donna's

52 cases produced, \$34/bottle

Release Date 10.09.09

production

For the first time, and based solely on the Mount Eden Clone, this chardonnay comes from the very sandy soils of the Donna's block on our Sta. Rita Hills vineyard. Named in honor of Ron Melville's wife, this section yields an intoxicatingly decadent wine. While planted next to our three acres of syrah, we find the Donna's meager soils, near a wind-protected hill, always yield a distinctive nuance and felt this year's dalliance with it seemed appropriate to explore. Yields were 2.2 lbs/plant (2.1 tons/acre) and were harvested by hand then gently whole-cluster pressed, cold settled overnight and transferred by gravity to barrel for fermentation in neutral (5 to 12 year old French oak), partial malolactic ($\pm 15\%$) and subsequent sur lie aging without any lees disturbance. 15.4% alcohol.

tasting notes

Golden and clear, this wine has explosive citrusy nuances reminiscent of key-lime pie, lemonheads, lemongrass and kaffir leaves. An intoxicating array of white sage, evergreen, honeycomb, limestone, angel-food cake and herbal tea complete this heady aromatic. On the palate, the wine is substantial yet chiseled, weighty yet soft, and offers more of this exotica finishing with excellent length and vibrancy.

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