



2011 Durell Vineyard Chardonnay

Sonoma Valley

Only 375 cases produced

WINEMAKER NOTES

Our 2011 Chardonnay from the acclaimed Durell Vineyard breaks away from the buttery, heavy Chardonnays of the past. Inspired by the White Burgundies of France, Winemaker Stephen Tebb makes the most of Durell's small, intense berries to create a finesse-driven wine that emphasizes pure fruit and clean, bright flavors. Select lots are left on the lees to add complexity and finesse. Aging is in neutral French oak for texture and richness, new French oak for a touch of spice, and stainless steel to enhance the fruit component.

VINEYARD CHARACTERISTICS

The Durell Vineyard borders the Carneros District in an area celebrated for great Chardonnays. The cool, breezy climate is heavily influenced by San Pablo Bay. Throughout the vineyard, shallow sandstone is permeated with rocks and fossils, stressing the vines as the roots search for nutrients. The sparse soils and the cool climate produce ideal growing conditions for slowly ripening fruit; flavor-packed berries; and very small yields. For additional quality control, any fruit that does not ripen evenly is culled, ensuring exceptional Chardonnay grape quality.

TASTING NOTES

Aromas are complex, showing the signature Spring Mountain "blues" – blueberry, exotic plum and bramble-berry, with a whiff of loam and cedar. **Flavors** of velvety dark fruit are broad and lush on the palate, bringing forth notes of sweet spice, cream and graphite. **Finish:** A fine balance of luxurious fruit and silky tannins extends well into the classy finish. **General:** This focused, refined presentation of Spring Mountain terroir offers great aging potential. Decanting recommended.

WINE INFORMATION

Harvest dates: October 27
Average sugar: 24.9° Brix
TA: 6.4 g/L | pH: 3.53
Alcohol: 14.5%
Barrel Aging: 6 months in 40% stainless steel; 50% 2nd year French oak; 10% new french oak.
Bottling Date: May 2012
Price: California suggested retail price is \$48.00 per bottle
Release Date: April 2013

