

CHARDONNAY RESERVE 2005



VITICULTURE

Vineyard: Sourced from two different contract growers in the upper Casablanca Valley. From vines with an average age of 12 to 14 years.

Soil: Free draining, alluvial loam/clay of medium fertility.

Climate: Yearly average rainfall of 450 mm, concentrated in the winter months. Summers are dry with warm days and cool nights. Temperatures are moderated the presence of morning fogs and sea breezes from the Pacific Ocean.

Vineyard Management: Planting density of 3.500 vines/hectare, trained to vertical shoot positioned canopy and spur pruned. Canopy trimming was carried out once in early spring and again at the beginning summer. Leaf plucking was carried out by hand at the beginning of March in order to increase bunch exposure.

WINEMAKING

Grape variety: Chardonnay 100%

Harvest: The fruit was picked by hand on March 26th and April 5th, 2005.

Winemaking Techniques: The grapes were crushed and destemmed to the press via a must-chiller. The must was then given 12 hours of skin contact (at 10-12°C) in order to extract the aromas and flavours contained in the skin. Following this the must was drained and cold settled for 3 days and then gravity fed to new (35%) and second use (65%) French barrels which were then inoculated with several different selected yeasts. Fermentation took a total of 3-4 weeks with temperatures peaking at

20-22°C. The barrels were manually 'stirred' weekly following fermentation up until bottling after a total of 7 months in barrel

Oak: 100% of the blend was aged for 7 months in 35% new and 65% second and third use French barrels.

LABORATORY ANALYSIS

Alcohol: 14.2 %vol pH: 3.26 Titratable Acidity: 6.0 g/L Residual Sugar: 3.6 g/L Volatile Acidity: 0.38 g/L

TASTING NOTES

On the nose notes of red delicious apple, white peach and pineapple dominate. In the mouth ample notes of pear and honeysuckle combine with just a hint of cumin and ginger leading to a zingy citrus finish accompanied by just a hint of spicy oak.

CELLARING POTENTIAL

Ready to drink now or cellar for 2 years.

OUR SOMMELIER RECOMMENDS

Enjoy with fresh pasta, a creamy mushroom risotto, mixed grilled vegetables or a roast chicken with pesto.