



Far Niente

1999 Estate Bottled Chardonnay

Napa Valley

Far Niente produces critically acclaimed, estate bottled Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon wines that are renowned for their consistent house style and ability to evolve with extended age.

The 1999 harvest started quite late in September due to a late spring and a wonderfully moderate growing season. The crop was quite small due to the conditions during bud formation and flowering. The small crop likely helped even ripening and increased flavors. Once the harvest had begun, an unusual period of extremely low humidity allowed the harvest to come in quickly.

The hand harvested grapes were brought to the winery in small bins and then sorted by hand to assure the finest quality. The fermentation began in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks, and was then racked into a high percentage of new French Burgundy Oak Barrels to complete the fermentation in our caves and old stone cellar. The wine was aged on its yeast lees for additional depth, complexity and texture. After approximately eight months of barrel aging, each wine was evaluated as part of the blend. Only those barrels that displayed both the quality and the "Far Niente style" were included in the blend which was lightly fined prior to bottling in the summer of 2000.

The 1999 Chardonnay is a classically structured wine that is both rich and velvety on the palate while displaying the typical intensity of fruit and spicy oak aromas that have become synonymous with Far Niente Chardonnay. While the finish is long and clean, the rich flavors of melon, fig and oak will become increasingly full and complex with time. The 1999 Far Niente Chardonnay has excellent potential to age ten or more years.

Dirk Hampson
Director of Winemaking



The Napa Valley Wine Estate

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