

BROWN

E S T A T E

2009 NAPA VALLEY CHARDONNAY

Composition	100% Estate Grown Chardonnay
Vineyard Source	Far West Vineyard, Brown Estate
Appellation	Chiles Valley District, Napa Valley
Barrel Aging	12 months in 100% French oak, 30% new
Alcohol	14.8% by vol.
Production	250 cases in 12 x 750ml format

Growing Season

We are committed to the idea that every vintage is exceptional. Even if we get pummeled with frost (2008) or hailed on during bloom (1998), optimism always seems to get the best of us. When looking back, these challenges become triumphs and setbacks become milestones. In 2009 we experienced everything that makes our unique microclimate so special, without a single caveat! Cool foggy mornings, warm afternoons, and cold nights were persistent trends all season long. Our biggest challenge was harvest. Normally a thirty-day process, in 2009 it was compressed into ten days when a season-ending storm brought eight inches of precipitation during the third week of October. With only our 2009 cabernet sauvignon still in cask today, we can confidently say that Mother Nature got it right – across the board, the 2009 vintage brought us a fantastic array of wines.

Vineyard Source

Our chardonnay vineyard is a bona fide outlier, residing at the far northwest corner of our estate property. The soil in this truly wild west vineyard is a dense gray clay, thick enough to pull your shoe off your foot should you venture out when it's damp. At four acres it typically yields a mere two tons maximum per acre. The fruit extracts from the clay soil a terrifically complex minerality that sets the resulting wine apart from typical Napa Valley chardonnay offerings.

Tasting Notes

Prepare to be enchanted by this incredibly complex and beguiling wine; in so doing you will experience the expansion of both palate and mind. Our chardonnay is a consistent representation of its vineyard site, revealing extreme purity of fruit and expressing the soil's intense minerality. Top notes of honeysuckle, star jasmine, pineapple, mandarin, and honeyed bergamot unfurl from the glass. Following closely are deeper notes of white currant, guava, lychee, pound cake batter, and subtle lemon zest. Further engagement reveals earthy notes of decomposed granite, mineral, wildflowers, and beeswax. Mouthfeel is incredibly rich and silky with magnificent concentration shadowed by excellent acidity, resulting in a seamless and sublime finish. Drink now through 2017.

NAPA VALLEY

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