

Heitz Cellar

2016 Chardonnay Napa Valley



Winemaker's Insight

Our Chardonnay continues to be crafted with balance and acidity, focusing on its true varietal characteristics. The nose of the 2016 Chardonnay begins with hints of Meyer lemon, pineapple, and freshly baked sweet apple tarts. The fresh fruit aroma is complemented by subtle notes of toasted hazelnut, honey suckle, and white floral characteristics. Its fresh, bright acidity pleases the palate while balanced by a smooth richness that we obtain through sur lie aging. Blending chardonnay fruit from our estate Trailside Vineyard in Rutherford and fruit from Oak Knoll AVA, all the classic chardonnay elements marry together in balance. The rich, ripe fruit character from the warmer Rutherford vineyard combined with the crisp, light acid in the grapes from the cooler Oak Knoll vineyard is what makes our Chardonnay unique. The new French oak gives the wine vanilla and baking spice flavor without overpowering the varietal flavor.

- Brittany Sherwood, Winemaker

2016 Vintage

The near-perfect 2016 growing season in Napa Valley combined mild summer temperatures and a series of warm days at the end of the growing season which led to an early start and finish to crush. Heitz Cellar brought in the first of our white wine grapes on August 18th and finished our Cabernet Sauvignon harvest October 11th. Although a very busy season, the phrase "short and sweet" applies nicely to this vintage as we were able to bring all our fruit into the winery in a timely fashion and enjoyed perfect ripeness across the varietal spectrum.

Wine Data

Varietal Composition: 100% Chardonnay

AVA: Napa Valley

Alc. by vol: 13.5%

pH: 3.15

TA g/L: 7.0

Malolactic fermentation: 0%

Aging Regime: 100% aged sur lie and stirred for 9 months. 75% in neutral oak tanks, 25% in half new, half used French oak barrels.

Stewardship: Certified organic by CCOF; Fish Friendly Farming

Harvest Date: August 18 to September 13, 2016

Release Date: July, 2018

Cases produced: 7,422

Founded in 1961, Heitz Cellar is a Napa Valley legend that has helped shape the history of Napa Valley winemaking. Pioneering vintner Joe Heitz ushered in Napa's modern era with his iconic, globally-celebrated wines, including Napa Valley's first vineyard-designated Cabernet Sauvignon, the renowned Heitz Cellar Martha's Vineyard. In 2018, the winery entered an exciting new chapter as the Heitz family passed this rich legacy into the hands of the Lawrence family, whose deep roots in agriculture and commitment to the same core values of fine winemaking made it a perfect match. Made with an unwavering commitment to quality from organically farmed, 100% Napa Valley fruit, Heitz celebrates its agrarian roots and commitment to the stewardship of Napa Valley.