

2004 Santa Cruz Mountains Chardonnay

The Vineyards:

The grapes for this wine were harvested from four vineyards located on the western side of the Santa Cruz Mountains Appellation. The vineyard sources and their respective locations are as follows:

- 1, Alfaro Family, Corralitos
- 2, Bald Mountain, Ben Lomond Mountain AVA
- 3, Nicholson Family, Corralitos
- 4, Trout Gulch, Aptos

These vineyards are all subject to the cooling influence of Monterey Bay, thus preserving the natural acidity of their grapes, while still allowing them to attain optimal “hang time” and maturity.



The Vintage:

Fruit set was moderate due to the natural thinning of late spring rains. The cool growing season was interrupted by two distinct heat waves that sent the winemakers scrambling. The first of the vineyards was harvested on October 10th and the last on October 24th.

Winemaking:

The grapes were 100% de-stemmed, crushed and gently pressed into a tank for cold settling overnight. The next day they were raked into 100% French oak barrels, 40 % of which were new. Each barrel from that point on was treated individually. Using a variety of cultured and indigenous yeasts the wines were fermented to dryness. The barrels were then topped up and aged on their lees. During the ageing process they were routinely stirred and underwent complete malo-lactic fermentation. After 11 months of barrel age, the wines were raked, blended, settled and then bottled without fining or filtration

The Wine:

Golden straw color, citrus and tropical fruits, toasty oak, vanilla, and a hint of butterscotch. Refreshing acidity on the lengthy finish. Due to its abundant natural acidity and minimum level of processing, this wine may throw a slight amount of harmless Tartaric Acid sediment.

Technical Data:

Production	325 Cases	Release Date	December 1, 2006
Alcohol	14.5 % by vol.	Ageing	11 months in French oak (40% new)
Bottle Sizes	750 ml	Suggested Retail	\$20.00

Suggested Food Pairings:

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