



2009 TRUCHARD VINEYARD

Chardonnay, Carneros, Napa Valley



VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

Truchard Vineyard lies in the heart of Carneros, prized for its rolling hills, sun exposure and cool, breezy conditions that allow long, even ripening. Nickel & Nickel makes wine from eight select acres of this 270-acre vineyard, composed of volcanic ash and rock with a southwestern exposure. The growing season tends to be long in this cooler area, allowing for fully mature fruit at harvest.

HARVEST NOTES

The climate in Napa Valley is ideal for grape-growing and the 2009 vintage experienced typical conditions early in the season. Moderate rainfall came in February with budbreak in mid-March. We added a west-facing hillside block to our acreage in Truchard this year and we were optimistic about the resulting fruit. Bloom occurred very quickly in mid-May, which is one of the best indicators that we could have another terrific vintage. The summer was slightly cooler than normal and veraison was a bit delayed. The overall harvest was a bit later than expected and each block within this vineyard was picked separately to ensure ultimate flavor development.

SENSORY EVALUATION

The 2009 Truchard Chardonnay offers pear, lemon and subtle tropical notes that are enhanced by the stone and mineral elements in this wine. The minerality is quite appealing as it mixes with juicy fruit flavors to give a creamy, full texture. The French oak offers a toast and vanilla backbone that adds another layer of complexity. The creaminess on the palate, which is not a result of malolactic fermentation, but rather a characteristic that is inherent in the ripe fruit itself, carries the fruit into a long, flavorful finish.

APPELLATION

Carneros, Napa Valley

VARIETAL

100% Chardonnay

AGING

French oak barrels
(45% new, 55% once-used)

RELEASE DATE

March 2011

HARVEST DATES

September 22 - October 8, 2009

FERMENTATION

Whole cluster pressed
barrel fermented (no ML)

TIME

9 months

FIRST VINTAGE

2000