



STERLING VINEYARDS.

2011 Sterling Vineyards Napa Valley Chardonnay

Sterling Vineyards wines express true varietal character—that set of aromas and flavors a grape varietal develops when grown in the terroir that suits it best. Carefully selected winemaking methods highlight each wine's unique personality and guarantee the high quality that distinguishes our reputation for impeccable taste. Sterling Vineyards Napa Appellation wines come from 14 diverse vineyards in this world-famous region, from the southernmost parts of the Carneros district to the northern reaches of Calistoga.

Wine

This Chardonnay shows the beauty and complexity of the Napa Valley, marrying the lush, bold ripeness of the mid-valley with the richness and depth of Carneros. Fragrant oak spices, honey and tropical fruits open the nose. On the palate, layers of golden apples, peach, lemon curd and caramel are lifted by a bright citrus finish, flanked by toasty spices. The elegant, full-bodied style of this Chardonnay can stand up to fleshy seafood and grilled meats alike.

Vineyard

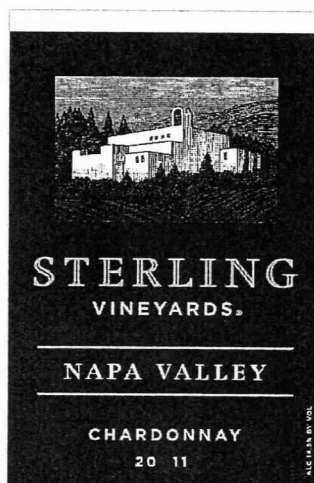
The depth and complexity of our Napa Valley Chardonnay comes from the broad range of vineyards that span the length of the valley, from the cooler microclimates of Carneros and Oak Knoll up through the warmer regions of Yountville and Rutherford. The grapes from mid-valley have bold, aromatic, golden fruit. This is balanced by the crisp, bright notes from the southern vineyards, which gives the wine depth with its fleshy lemon meringue character and weighty midpalate.

Winemaking

One of the coolest vintages on record for California, we harvested our Chardonnay almost four weeks later than average. This long hang time allowed complex flavors to develop while maintaining the fruit's natural acidity levels. Sur-lie aging was critical in coaxing a rich mouthfeel from this vintage, as well as 100 percent malolactic fermentation, which softened then natural acidity and gave a pusher, rounder mouthfeel.

Vintage

A low-yielding, intensely flavorful vintage for white wines in general. The growing season was fairly moderate, with no dramatic heat spikes, and harvest dates were extended for a very cool and long ripening. Overall, it produced slightly lower sugars, higher acids and vibrant varietal flavors.



Key Facts

- This well-balanced, elegant Chardonnay captures the diversity of Napa in its layers of aromas and flavors.
- The wine reflects the richness of the Napa Valley with its ripe, golden character.
- Small-lot barrel fermentation and regular bâtonnage added texture and spice to the wine.
- Favorable for white varietals, 2011 allowed extended hang times for intense, complex flavors.

Wine Data

Vintage - 2011

Varietal Composition -

98.2% Chardonnay
0.5% Viognier
0.4% Pinot Gris
0.9% other

Barrel Aging - 9 months

90% barrel aged
73% French oak
27% American oak
26% new oak

Appellation - Napa Valley

Alcohol - 14.5%

Acidity - 5.9 g/L

pH - 3.49

Ageability -

2012 to 2017

Video:

Sterling Vineyards Napa Valley Chardonnay Tasting Note