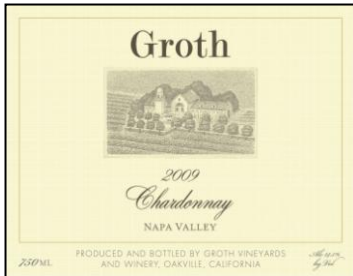


Groth

VINEYARDS & WINERY

Rooted in Oakville



2009 CHARDONNAY NAPA VALLEY

Vintage: “Mellow” is a great word for the white grape harvest in 2009. Long, steady periods of moderate temperatures ripened the Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc grapes in such a way that high sugars were not an issue. The lack of excessive heat and heat spikes allowed us to make wines at more moderate alcohols while still retaining a tremendous amount of fruitiness and acidity. A great year for whites!

Harvest: Our Chardonnay is made entirely from grapes grown in our Oakville and Hillview Vineyards. The majority of tonnage comes from our Hillview parcel, located in the Oak Knoll District, which was planted in 1996. The fruit from this cooler vineyard site provides the tropical fruit, citrus and mineral notes that complement food nicely. Grapes from the warmer Oakville vineyards give our Chardonnay its distinctive green apple character.

Winemaking: All of the 2009 Chardonnay fruit was whole cluster pressed. This gives us juice with incredible fruit flavors and softness. After pressing and cold settling, the juice was transferred to French oak barrels, 25% of which were new, for fermentation and aging. After eight months of aging “sur lie”, the wine was racked off the yeast lees, blended and finished for bottling.

Winemaker Tasting notes: Long, cool fermentation in a mixture of old and new barrels gives our Chardonnay layers of fruitiness and complexity that result in a wine that is very enjoyable when young or after several years of bottle age. This method of fermentation, in conjunction with whole cluster pressing and "sur lie" aging add layers of toastiness and creaminess to the wine. Together these components meld together harmoniously to create a balanced wine that is both lively and rich in aroma and flavor.

Key Points

- Napa Valley
- 100% Chardonnay
- No Malolactic Fermentation
- Estate vineyard fruit - 76% Hillview, 24% Oakville
- Barrel fermented
- Aged sur lie in French oak barrels for eight months, 25% new oak
- Crisp, complex, well balanced Chardonnay

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