



2019 Howard Family Vineyard
Santa Cruz Mountains
Chardonnay

AROMA

ginger root, buddha's hand, oyster shell

FLAVOR

yuzu, crushed quartz, lemon oil

FOOD PAIRINGS

cauliflower gratin, kale caesar, shrimp + grits

VINIFICATION

1.01 tons hand-harvested on Sept. 20. Fermented on wild yeasts in 500L neutral oak puncheon, completing a slow malolactic fermentation. Aged in barrel for 10 months, before racking to steel for six more months of anaerobic aging.

SITE

This choice little "home vineyard" is tucked into a fog-choked valley four miles from the cold Pacific Ocean. It grows on colluvial soils of golden sand and calcareous deposits. Clonal material is Old Wente, planted in the mid-1980s at <600' elevation. This uniquely temperate region is defined by its relationship to the sea reliable fog, and coastal redwoods.

NOTES

This sweet little home vineyard in Aptos-Corralitos was one of the greatest finds in years. Our friend Bradley Brown at Big Basin tipped us off and we now share the site with him. This 1970s planting of dry-farmed, old Wente Chardonnay is one of the oldest plantings in the SCM AVA, and is being organically farmed by local legend Prudy Foxx. There are few places as difficult to farm organically as a damp site 4-miles from a restless sea. It will seemingly always be a race to achieve ripeness here before the botrytis sets in, but tasting the last two vintages of Howard determines us. This wine is more opulent than La Marisma, with higher pitches of jasmine flower and passion fruit commingling with barely-ripe stone fruits. The briny seashell notes, characteristic of the best wines from this area, are background players right now but may emerge to center stage with bottle age.

DETAILS

Vineyard: Howard Family	pH: 3.26
Appellations: Santa Cruz Mountains	Brix: 21.8°
County: Santa Cruz	Total acidity: 7.2 g/L
Winemaker: Drew Huffine	Residual sugar: 0.5 g/L
Production: 47 cases	Alcohol: 13.6%
Anticipated maturity: 2023	Yield: 3 T/acre
	Clones: Wente
	Harvest date: 9/20/2019
	Bottling date: 1/28/2021

