

WATERSTONE

P. O Box 6979
Napa, California 94581

2009 CHARDONNAY CARNEROS

Vintage

2009 proved to be a mild, relatively cool growing season. Without much frost nor many heat spikes, the lack of rain (2/3 of normal for the third consecutive year) did not present any challenges. Overall, the vintage provided extended hang time for the grapes without excessive ripeness, leading to forward, bright fruit with mature flavors and tannins.

Vineyards

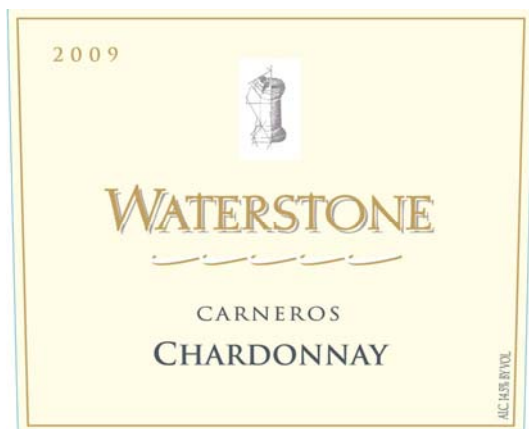
The Chardonnay grapes for this wine were grown in the Carneros region, where soils are dense, shallow, of low to moderate fertility, and high in clay content. While the soils lead to low yields, the region's maritime climate allows a longer growing season; the end result is balanced color, flavor and acidity in the harvested grapes. This Chardonnay is produced from three vineyards: the Rodgers Creek Vineyards in northwestern Carneros, the Wilson Vineyard in the heart of the Carneros appellation and the Truchard Vineyard in north-eastern Carneros.

Vinification

After whole-cluster pressing, the Chardonnay juice was barrel-fermented in French oak barrels and aged sur lie for 11 months. During this period, the barrels were routinely stirred to increase yeast contact and add richness; the wine did not undergo the secondary malo-lactic fermentation. One- and two-year-old French oak barrels were used. Prior to bottling, the wine received minimal filtration and fining to preserve the fresh fruit flavors.


Tasting Notes

This Chardonnay features bright, concentrated citrus, pear, green apple and nectarine fruit, with just a touch of oak to add richness to the palate. The wine lingers on the palate, and has the structure and acidity to provide for good longevity.



Technical Data:

Varietal Composition	100% Chardonnay
Appellation	Carneros
Alcohol	14.6%
TA	0.66 g/100ml
pH	3.42
Oak Aging	11 months
Oak Cooperage	French oak
Bottling Date	February 28, 2011
Production	1771 cases



Philip Zorn, Winemaker