



**G R A T O N   C E L L A R S**  
**C A L I F O R N I A**  
**C H A R D O N N A Y**

**2 0 1 2**

**W I N E   N O T E S**

• G R A P E   S O U R C I N G •

Our winemaker selected grapes from vineyards across California's best cool climate growing regions. For 2012 we harvested grapes from the North Coast down to the San Joaquin Region. With warm, sunny days moderated by cooling influences, conditions in these areas create an ideal climate for growing Chardonnay.

Grapes harvested from a variety of vineyards and areas each provide unique flavor components that together create a balanced, complex and harmonious wine.

*Grape Sourcing: 100% California*

• V I N T A G E •

This vintage was an ideal growing season with mild temperatures and opportune heat spikes to get the grapes to full maturity. Harvest was finished just in time before Mother Nature delivered the first storm of the season. The weather we had this growing season ensured full development of the Chardonnay grape while protecting the delicate characters that this variety is known for. Our crops gave us quality at such a high level. Our Chardonnay shows great fruit character, finesse, and fullness in the palate.

*Technical Information: 0.49 TA, 3.42 pH, 13.5% alcohol by volume*

• W I N E M A K I N G •

Grapes for this wine were harvested during cooler night and morning hours to highlight the crisp citrus flavors balancing the fruit flavors in our wine. After crushing, the must was fermented for up to twelve days at cool temperatures, around 60 degrees Fahrenheit, in stainless steel tank, adding a little French and American oak. A portion of the blend went through malolactic fermentation, adding a silkiness and body to the wine. Other white varietals are blended in to add floral notes and richness to the blend.

*Varietal Blend: 96% Chardonnay, 4% other white varietals*

• W I N E M A K E R ' S   N O T E S •

Ripe pineapple, golden apple and Anjou pear flavors are balanced by citrus notes and a smooth, creamy finish. The wine would be a heavenly match with smoked chicken salad with apples and walnuts, four-cheese pizza and light pasta dishes.