

2009 Old Head Chardonnay



VINEYARDS

Dunnigan Hills
Matchbook Vineyard
91% Chardonnay

Russian River Valley
Dutton Ranch Mill Station
3% Chardonnay

Mendocino Bechstoffler
Redwood Valley
3% Chardonnay

Russian River Valley
Balletto Vineyards
3% Chardonnay

BARRELS

Dunnigan Hills
100% Barrel fermented

22% new from:
Gillet | French Vosges
Kadar | Hungarian
Trust | Hungarian oak, band split
and slow roasted over oak fires
78% from 2-5 year old barrels:
Gillet | French Vosges

Russian River Valley
100% Stainless Steel Fermented

CHEMISTRY

Appellation: Dunnigan Hills
Farming: Sustainable
Night Harvest

TA: .57

pH: 4.01

Alcohol: 13.9%

Production: 30,000 cases

GRAPES

This lusciously opulent wine has all the richness without the excessive oak and butter that characterize most California Chardonnays. Wonderful aromas of baked apples, pineapple, vanilla bean, cream and cinnamon are prominent with undertones of brown sugar, fig and melon. There is a kiss of orange blossom aroma in the background. Flavors of caramel apples and crème brûlée are balanced by hints of stone fruit and a crisp, mineral finish.

CELLAR

Six different clones of chardonnay were used in this wine, and all were picked at night and delivered to the winery before sunrise to ensure that fresh cool grapes were crushed. Clone 809 (the most exotic clone) was cold tank fermented to enhance its Muscat character. The other lots were barrel fermented and periodically lees stirred. Yeast "cocktails," a mixture of the winemaker's favorite compatible yeasts, were used on all lots to ensure complex fermentation characters would evolve in the wine. Chardonnay from the Matchbook Vineyard was blended with a small percentage of Russian River Valley chardonnay to balance the acidity and add characters of intense pippin apples and floral spice.

STORY

As a farm kid growing up in the late 1950's and early 1960's, John Giguere was a confirmed pyromaniac starting various things on fire such as his father's wheat fields. He and his brother graduated to launching rockets, which often blew up at some stage of the journey resulting in more random fires, and calls to the local fire department. They eventually grew out of this fascination with the Matchbook but still have fond memories of the power they possessed.

