

2001 HOPE'S CUVÉE CHARDONNAY



100% Napa Valley, Chardonnay, Estate Grown

Harvested at 24.2 Brix, between August 30 & September 2, 2001

13.9% Alcohol

0.59 TA / 3.56 pH

101 six-packs produced

Release Date: January 2004

Hope's Cuvée was first made in 1995, in the memory of Ray Signorello Jr.'s mother, Hope Signorello. This wine not only is made with the highest quality fruit, but it is made with passion, devotion and love from the Signorello family. We miss you Hope!

HARVEST NOTES: The 2001 Napa Valley growing season for white wines was a little turbulent, with an early spring, a surprise frost and early heat spikes, but as the grapes came in, the harvest appeared to be spectacular. A mild winter with very low rainfall proceeded the spring growing season, which moved at an accelerated pace due to early warm temperatures. Vineyards experienced one of the quickest flowering periods on record, with even flowering and set occurring across the board. Yields averaged 1.6 tons / acre in 2001.

WINEMAKING NOTES: Careful pressing of whole clusters minimized skin contact. The gentle process helped the wine achieve balance, develop a silky mouth-feel and enhanced aging potential. Using native yeasts, the wine fermented in French oak barrels with 100% of the wine undergoing a second, malolactic fermentation. Tonnelleries: François Frères and Damy. Oak types: Allier and Tronçais. The wine spent 11 months on the lees in French oak (50% new) followed by racking and bottling on August 8, 2002. To preserve fruit intensity and body, the wine was not filtered. The Hope's Cuvée represents the best two barrels from the entire estate program selected through extensive tastings by our Proprietor, Ray Signorello Jr.

TASTING NOTES: The nose opens with apple and mineral aromas. Ripe fruit flavors, especially of apple and pear enhance the broad palate. French oak provides a touch of spice with hints of clove, cinnamon and nutmeg. Hope's Cuvée is very similar to our Estate Chardonnay but with an extra dimension of depth and concentration from the meticulous barrel selection. Drinkability: Now to 2012.

VINEYARD NOTES: Hope's Cuvée was grown exclusively on our estate vineyard on the east side of the Silverado Trail in the Oak Knoll area. This shallow, rocky hillside vineyard, planted in 1980, stressed the vines sufficiently during the growing season to ensure intense varietal character. We employed a variety of techniques in managing each vineyard's micro-climate including vertical trellising, leaf removal, and crop reduction.