

SIGNORELLO

VINEYARDS

2006 "HOPE'S CUVÉE" CHARDONNAY



APPELLATION:	100% NAPA VALLEY
BLEND:	100% CHARDONNAY
HARVESTED:	SEPTEMBER 22, 2006
BRIX AT HARVEST:	24.3
TOTAL ACIDITY:	0.61
PH:	3.53
ALCOHOL:	14.1%
TOTAL PRODUCTION:	41 CASES

Hope's Cuvée was first made in 1994, 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!

2006 HARVEST REPORT: After a year that kept grape growers on their toes, vintners and winemakers breathed a sigh of relief as the 2006 harvest closed. Flooding kicked off the New Year in Napa Valley, which made for great TV footage, but did little damage to the dormant vines, as cover crops stabilized soils in the vineyards. In mid July, a record-setting heat wave lasted about ten days, but with the crop a few weeks behind, damage was almost nil. According to Pierre Birebent, the overall quality of 2006 looks outstanding and should be an excellent vintage.

WINEMAKING NOTES: Careful pressing of whole clusters minimized skin contact. This gentle process helps the wine achieve balance as well as develop a silky mouth-feel and enhances the aging potential. Using native yeasts, the wine fermented in French oak barrels with 50% malolactic fermentation to preserve the natural acidity. Tonnelleries: François Frères and Damy. Oak types: Allier, and Tronçais. The wine spent 10 months on the lees in French oak (40% new) followed by bottling in June 2006. 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 2013.

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.

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