

HANDLEY CELLARS WATER TOWER CHARDONNAY



100% Chardonnay. Shows aromas of citrus blossoms, white peach and fresh cut straw. It is creamy and round on the palate with a slight effervescence. It has flavors of melon, white peach, pear and almonds. The flavors are persistent and long on the palate with a crisp finish and a touch of orange pith. A lighter expression of Chardonnay with no oak. The bright fruit in this wine makes it a lovely aperitif. Pairs perfectly with medium bodied fish such as halibut, bass, grouper or pike. Or try it as an accompaniment to chicken breast with lemon and Beurre Blanc.

The fruit was pressed whole cluster and allowed to settle for three day in a stainless steel tank before being racked off its solids and inoculated with a combination of yeasts that are reliable fermenters that emphasize fruity characters. The wine was fermented primarily in stainless steel with a small portion going into older, neutral puncheons to avoid any oaky flavors. The stainless steel portion went through complete malcolactic fermentation to soften the wine but because the fruit was grown in a warmer region with little malic acid it did not develop any buttery characteristics.

Handley Cellars firmly believes in a conscious and conscientious approach to farming and winemaking. They purchase grapes from small, local, family growers, and whenever possible, the fruit selected is farmed organically. Their winemaking philosophy is to let the distinctive qualities of each vineyard shine through. Working with carefully tended, exceptional sites, they strive to create wines that faithfully reflect the unique characteristics of the vineyards and viticultural region, focusing on the appellation of Anderson Valley. They select vineyards that fully ripen at lower brix, resulting in wines with low to moderate alcohol levels. Beginning with the 2012 vintage, their white wines are free of animal products. From start to finish, they are mindful of their impact on their rural valley, and the implications of their farming and winemaking choices for future generations.

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Tasting Note:

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Shelf Talker:

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