

ZIATA

2017 CHARDONNAY CARNEROS, NAPA VALLEY

The Vineyards:

We source two clones from two of the Carneros District of Napa Valley AVAs' most esteemed Chardonnay growers to craft this elegant Chardonnay. These two sustainably farmed vineyards have been owned for decades by their respective families, and we're thrilled to have access to their expertise and their fruit. Notable neighbors include Hudson Vineyards, Shafer Red Shoulder Ranch, Cuvaison and Hyde Vineyards.

Carneros is perfectly suited for cooler-climate varieties such as Chardonnay. Its combination of cooling summer fog, warm days, and long, mild growing season is ideal for achieving vibrant fruit aromas and flavors while retaining crisp acidity in wines.

The Robert Young clone comes from a 68-acre vineyard that drapes rolling hills of Diablo Clay loam soil that are situated close to the waters of San Pablo Bay. The fruit from the block we selected offers full, round flavors of ripe peach, intense aromatics and a beautiful texture.

The Old Wente clone comes from a 3-acre block within the vineyard planted on terraced slopes. The shallow clay soil prevents the vines from establishing deep roots and in turn limits crop size, ensuring high-quality fruit packed with personality. Wente clone is naturally low yielding on its with small clusters, and offers plenty of crisp acidity a beautiful blend of citrus and ripe fruit aromas and flavors to the final blend.

2017 Growing Season:

The 2017 harvest started with a purr but ramped up to a roar with sporadic dry heat spells. These were punctuated by longer periods of mild temperatures, which kept ripening rates in check, allowing the fruit to hang until the clusters reached optimum maturity while maintaining moderate sugar levels. The resulting wine is fresh and expressive, with enticing flavors and unrivaled aromas.

The Winemaking:

Winemaker Jennifer Williams has been with Ziata since January 2015. After interning for a harvest at Araujo Estate and Spottswoode Estate, she joined Spottswoode full time and worked under the tutelage of vineyard manager David Abreu before becoming the winery's vineyard manager for two years, and then winemaker for six years, before launching her consulting business in 2011.

Varietal: 100% Chardonnay with 32% Robert Young clone and 68% Old Wente clone
Appellation: Carneros, Napa Valley
Fermentation: 100% barrel fermented (40% in new French oak); 100% malolactic fermentation
Alcohol: 14.1%
Production: 400 cases