

Chardonnay Sangiacomo Vineyard Carneros 2020

Harvest Date: September 22nd, 2020

Grape Source: Sangiacomo Vineyards of Sonoma-Carneros

100% Novillero Block

Fermentation: 100% Barrel Fermented, 43% Malolactic

Aging: Aged 'Sur Lee' for 10 months in French Oak

20% new and 80% used

Alcohol: 14.7%

Total Production: 19 Barrels

Release Date: September 2021

Winemaker: David Tate

Vineyard Notes: 2020 was a challenging year for many reasons. In the vineyards and across California we had a few extra challenges with the fires that ravaged our state. The fires alone were very destructive, but the smoke from the fire caused most of the wine damage. Smoke can enter the grape and sit under the skin and appear in multiple different ways and levels. When we picked the first of our three blocks, the Novillero, it was prior to smoke reaching Carneros. However, our other two blocks of Sangiacomo were not so lucky. This the smallest production of our Sangiacomo Chardonnay that we have ever produced.

Winemaking Notes: The grapes were harvested in the dark early morning under the bright tractor lights. These night picks allow the cool fog to keep the grapes fresh prior to their delivery to the winery. The grapes were whole bunch pressed and kept overnight in a cool tank, where the next morning the juice is inoculated, stirred up, and then moved to barrel (20% new) for the primary fermentation. Every barrel is allowed to go through malo-lactic fermentation naturally. Each barrel is then monitored for flavor profile changes, and each barrels malo-lactic fermentation is halted at the perfect point, which lead to 43% malic to lactic conversion this year.

Tasting Notes: The 2020 Sangiacomo Chardonnay is a beautiful light gold. The nose is bright, layered and very complex with Asian pear, honeycomb, and cardamom. There are also notes of vanilla bean and white pepper. The wine is very rich with balancing acidity. More stone fruit emerges on the palate, as well as jasmine spice and light hint of honeydew melon. This is a rich complex wine that is beautiful in its youth, where the tiny amount made would age nicely over the next 4-5 years (2025-2026).