



AVIARY
VINEYARDS

2020 CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

OUR STORY

Founded in 2010, Aviary Vineyards launched with the 2009 vintage of our Napa Valley Red Blend. That first vintage took advantage of small lots from 13 different vineyards throughout the Napa Valley. Much like an aviary, the blend of different grapes created something more special than each component on its own. We strive to craft wines that are captivating and enjoyable. We want to express the big, bold flavors that are uniquely California, but presented in a balanced and elegant style with a smooth finish.

We are a team, a family, a community, and like an aviary, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

WINEMAKING NOTES

The 2020 vintage in California was one of the most challenging vintages in our history. Of course, COVID shutdowns caused a lot of havoc - protocols, staffing, ambiguity. A cool summer ended with temperatures spiking in August, and then came the fires, which burned almost 180,000 acres in Monterey County alone. This all resulted in a rough harvest season. Somehow, from all that chaos, Mother Nature gave us some beautiful fruit. We didn't lose any Chardonnay that year, and the white grapes didn't suffer from smoke contamination. The 2020 will definitely be a harvest we will not soon forget.

Stress continues to be the condition in which grapes do well. We were quick to bring the fruit in and off its skins. These are the years that we are thankful to have a diverse portfolio of vineyards throughout the state to blend the best reflection of each vintage. The yield was low, but the quality was exceptional in 2020, and that is reflected in this bottling of Aviary Chardonnay. Rich and complex with beautiful flavors of Tahitian vanilla bean, toasted almonds, and fresh bread are a perfect foundation for the bright fruit flavors of guava, banana, pineapple, papaya, and Meyer lemon. It reminds me of the fruit covered tarts filled with custard that one finds in a French bakery - flakey crust, creamy vanilla custard, topped with bright, acidic fruits. This wine is a California Chardonnay lover's treat.

TECHNICAL NOTES

pH: 3.65 g/L
TA: 5.5n g/L
Alcohol: 13.03%
Barrel: 8 months French Oak.

