



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E



2011 Late Harvest Chardonnay

Production: 98 cases
Composition: 85% Chardonnay, 15% Viognier
Vineyards: Stewart Ranch & Losey
Appellation: Carneros & Oak Knoll
Elevation: Valley floor
Cooperage: Neutral oak
Alcohol: 13.8%, TA 1.19, pH 3.53, 13.2% RS
Bottled: 8/22/2012
Release date: Fall 2012
Release price: \$48.00

The 2011 Late Harvest Chardonnay comes from the Stewart Ranch, a peninsula of vineyard in the Napa Marshes Wildlife Area in Carneros. Cool breezes and frequent fog make a late harvest possible here even when other areas of Napa become too warm. Persistent botrytis developed, making up more than about 85% of the final volume, and sugars continued to rise and concentrate. The clusters were so shriveled down that all grapes were foot-stomped in the harvest boxes and a small amount of Viognier grapes were put on top to get some juice started before pressing on Nov 4th. Brix levels reached 44% after pressing, and the juice was inoculated with RC212 yeast and allowed to slowly barrel ferment, until it slowed and stopped. The result, even after 10 months in barrel, is pretty amazing, with its dramatic botrytis character, and floral Viognier aromas. It should age gracefully for years, mellowing out a bit from its present exuberance.

Winemaker Alison Doran's tasting notes:

This late Harvest has a big, tangy, botrytis nose, with honey, jasmine, and a little apricot that will grow with time. The palate is huge, rich, and unctuous, with all sorts of caramelized peach, pear, and apple. The texture is really decadent, clean on the finish, but absolutely a show stopper.