



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E



2013 Reserve Chardonnay

Production: 486 cases

Composition: 100% Chardonnay

Vineyards: Clarke & Watson

Appellation: Napa Valley

Elevation: Foothills - 500 ft.

Cooperage: 80% new French oak (Francois Freres & Remond)

Alcohol: 14.8%, TA 0.54, pH 3.59

Bottling date: August 4, 2014

Release date: Spring 2015

Release price: \$65.00

The 2013 Reserve Chardonnay is a rich elegant wine showing both its cool climate pedigree and the advantage a great site has on Chardonnay. The gentle rolling slopes at Clarke, and the steep dramatic rocky site at Watson are both in the very southern end of Napa Valley where breezy afternoons and foggy mornings are normal. 2013 was the second of our drought years, and the grapes were picked about 3 weeks earlier than 2012, on Sept 22, at about 25 brix, when the lemon apple flavors were just developing a hint of tropical fruit. Malo-lactic fermentation was used to increase the complexity and soften the acidity, and new Francois Freres and Remond barrels were utilized to add richness and warmth. The wine was barrel fermented and then stayed in barrel 10 months, with battonage every 2 weeks to increase depth and texture.

Winemaker Alison Doran's tasting notes:

Cloves and a hint of coconut start the aromas, and then pear and lychee take over, with Meyer lemon floating in and out. The palate is integrated and rich, with a beautiful balance of oak spice and ripe Chardonnay fruit. The lemon and pear flavors are followed by an elegant lifting finish, and a final kiss of oak.