

QUPE

A Modern Stone Age Winery



2011 Y BLOCK CHARDONNAY SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



NOTES This is classic Y Block Chardonnay, fresh and crisp but with a mellow richness in the middle of the wine. The oak adds complexity but is subtle and in the background. The alcohol is nicely balanced at 13.4% and with fresh acidity this wine matches well with many foods. If you like to put our Y Block Chardonnay in your cellar, this one can easily go for another 10 years!

VINEYARDS This wine is 82% Chardonnay from the Bien Nacido Vineyard in the Santa Maria Valley, 10% Chardonnay from the La Presa Vineyard in the Santa Ynez Valley and 8% Chenin Blanc from the White Hills Vineyard on the western edge of the Los Alamos area of Santa Barbara County. In 2011 we had poor weather during the flowering and set period (May-June) of the growing season resulting in a significantly smaller crop than normal. The La Presa Vineyard is a beautiful vineyard situated in the heart of the Santa Ynez Valley, near the Santa Ynez River and just east of the town of Solvang. It is owned by an old friend of mine named Eric Caldwell and farmed by Andy Ibarra. This is a warmer site than Bien Nacido so I picked the La Presa grapes on the early side of ripeness (right around 22.0° brix) while it still had fresh acidity. White Hills Vineyard, once the largest vineyard in Santa Barbara County, was planted by Beringer in the early 1980's. It is farmed by another old friend of mine, Dale Hampton, who is one of the iconic grape farmers from the earliest days of the modern wine industry here. Cool climate Chenin Blanc is a really interesting wine and a perfect fit to blend into this Chardonnay.

WINEMAKING All lots of this wine were made in traditional fashion, complete barrel fermentation in French oak (about 20% new Francois Freres), complete malolactic fermentation in barrel and then aged for 9 months on the lees before racking. The wine was given a light filtration just to make sure it's clear and was bottled in June 2012 in both 750ml and 375ml bottles.

TECHNICAL DATA

GRAPES: 92% Chardonnay,
8% Chenin Blanc

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

BOB LINDQUIST, WINEMAKER