



## 2013 Chardonnay

<b>Appellation:</b>	Napa Valley – Spring Mountain District
<b>Vineyards:</b>	Chevalier Vineyard Blocks 2 & 14 Elevation 850'
<b>Varietals:</b>	Chardonnay 100%
<b>Alcohol:</b>	14.4%
<b>Clones:</b>	95 & Robert Young 17
<b>Fermentation:</b>	Barrel Fermented – French oak 80% Neutral – 20% New Six Months Sur-Lie with Batonnage - Partial Malolactic
<b>Production:</b>	238 Cases



### Winemaker Notes

The wine opens with inviting aromas of tangerine, orange peel, passionfruit, melon and white flowers. On the palate, this chardonnay is round and full-bodied, delivering ample flavors of ripe peach and melon in a creamy, textured wine that balances its weight with refreshing acidity. Pure mountain fruit flows through the lingering finish, leaving the palate enlivened and wanting another luscious sip.

### The 2013 Vintage

The winter of 2012-2013 was dry and warm. Most of the seasonal rainfall came in December 2012. Warm winter temperatures, with several days in the 70s, brought forth bud break two weeks earlier than normal. Spring and summertime temperatures were pleasant and warm with a few heat waves that were not damaging to the clusters. The growing season was ideal, and the fruit was of the highest quality at harvest. Chardonnay was picked on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

### SMV Chardonnay and the Judgment of Paris

The 2013 SMV Estate Bottled Chardonnay marks 40 vintages since the 1973 Chardonnay bested Premier Cru and Grand Cru Burgundies, placing 4<sup>th</sup> in the Judgment of Paris Tasting of 1976. This seminal tasting elevated the status of California wines on the world stage and brought Spring Mountain Vineyard into the limelight. In the ensuing decades, Spring Mountain ceased production of Chardonnay to focus on red Bordeaux varieties. Yet in 2008 a very limited bottling of Estate Chardonnay was produced. Now, with 3.2 acres of estate vineyards planted to the variety, the SMV Chardonnay legacy continues.

### About Spring Mountain Vineyard

Spring Mountain Vineyard is an 845 acre estate on the eastern slopes of Spring Mountain. Over 225 acres of the estate are planted to vine, representing 135 distinct hillside vineyard blocks with many soil types, exposures, and microclimates. Originally four individual 19<sup>th</sup> century Napa Valley vineyards, Miravalle, Alba, Chevalier and La Perla are now one vineyard producing primarily Bordeaux varieties. Because of the challenging and diverse hillsides, a substantial portion of the vineyard is planted in densities of over 4,000 vines per acre to the ancient *gobelet* form, a vertical training method invented in an earlier millennium by the Romans. The vineyard yields distinctive mountain wines noted for concentration, elegance and longevity. The quintessential wine from the estate is *Elivette*.