



# Groth

## 2020 CHARDONNAY HILLVIEW ESTATE VINEYARD, NAPA VALLEY

This single-vineyard Chardonnay is sourced exclusively from the Groth family's Hillview Estate south of Yountville, which they purchased in 1982. This wine highlights the beautiful fruit character and underlying minerality that so often exemplifies white wines from the Oak Knoll District.

**VINTAGE:** The 2020 harvest began on August 28, exactly one week earlier than in 2019, but more in line with our typical historical start time. The earlier start was no surprise as our mild winter yielded an earlier-than-average bud break (about two weeks earlier than 2019). Harvest was compressed, with no respite between whites and reds, and fruit quality was excellent with very good full ripeness at fairly low sugars.

**HARVEST:** Our Chardonnay is made entirely from grapes grown on our Hillview Estate Vineyard located in the Oak Knoll District AVA and planted in 1996. The fruit from this cooler vineyard site provides the tropical fruit, citrus and mineral notes that complement food nicely.

**WINEMAKING:** We whole-cluster pressed the major portion of the Chardonnay fruit, giving us juice with incredibly delicate fruit flavors and softness. About 20% of the fruit was destemmed prior to pressing, yielding juice with a bigger structure and rich aromatics. After pressing and cold settling, the juice was transferred to French oak barrels for fermentation and aging. After eight months of aging "sur lie," the wine was racked off the yeast lees, blended and finished for bottling.

**TASTING NOTES:** The 2020 vintage produced beautifully expressive Chardonnay from our Hillview Estate. Initial aromas display classic notes of citrus and pineapple, as well as the other tropical fruits that are a hallmark of this wine. There is also a fragrant, dried apple note, along with fresh pastry dough, lemon curd and dried sage. Spice and toast from the barrel aging come through in the aroma and the flavor of the wine. This Chardonnay is rich and viscous on the palate, with flavors of citrus, marmalade and apricot that lead to a full, lingering finish. — *Director of Winegrowing Ted Henry*

**PAIRING SUGGESTION:** Enjoy with a variety of seafood, pastas with cream-based sauces or a grilled turkey burger.

**ACCOLADES:** 91 pts, James Suckling

### KEY POINTS

- 100% sustainably farmed estate fruit from our Hillview Vineyard, Napa Valley
- Varietal composition: 100% Chardonnay
- Pick dates: September 5- September 8, 2020
- Barrel-fermented
- No malolactic fermentation
- Aged sur lie in French oak barrels for eight months; 17% new French oak

