



FROSTWATCH *Vineyard & Winery*

## Frostwatch 2007 Bennett Valley Chardonnay

**Cases Produced:** 575

**Suggested Retail:** \$30

**Composition:** 100% Chardonnay

**Harvest Date:** October 2, 2007 for both vineyards.

**Brix at Harvest:** Frostwatch - 23.8 degrees brix, Sylvan Hills - 23.9 degrees brix

**Blend TA:** 5.7 g/l

**Blend Ph:** 3.45

**Alc:** 14.3%

**Vineyard Sources:** Frostwatch Vineyard and Sylvan Hills Vineyard are both located in Bennett Valley, one of Sonoma County's newest AVAs. A gap in the surrounding mountains permits cool coastal breezes and fog to pour into the valley on a regular basis throughout the spring and summer. As a result the appellation is distinguished by its very long growing season, modest yields relative to other areas and full flavored wines with good natural acidity. Frostwatch Vineyard, planted in 1997, is located on a rocky apron beneath Bennett Peak. Sylvan Hills, also located beneath Bennett Peak, was planted in the mid-1970's to a selection of Old Wente Clone which is prized for its great aromatics and concentration.

**Winemaking:** 2007 was an exceptional vintage for Chardonnay in Bennett Valley. The growing season was long and cool, with smaller crops than usual. This resulted in fruit with intense concentration and great balance. The wine was 100% barrel fermented (43% new oak) using indigenous yeast followed by an indigenous malolactic fermentation (100%). To better integrate the oak, the barrels were topped and stirred several times a week during the later part of the primary fermentation; then once a week during the five month malolactic fermentation; then every two weeks thereafter. The wine was bottled unfiltered in February of 2009.

**Tasting Notes:** Aromas of red apple, pear and nectarine are accented by hints of citrus, crème brulee and vanilla. On the palate the wine is round and broad with highlights of bright acid framing concentrated citrus and leesy flavors with crisp minerality. The wine is showing well now but will continue to develop for the next 3-4 years. Serve slightly chilled.

**Winemaker:** Brett Raven

**Ratings:** Presently Unrated.

