



FROSTWATCH *Vineyard & Winery*

Frostwatch 2014 Ophira Reserve Chardonnay

Cases produced: 75

Suggested retail: \$45

Composition: 100% Chardonnay, Platt Wenté Clone

Harvest date: 9/20/14

Brix at Harvest: Platt Wenté Block 24.0

Blend TA: 5.6

Blend Ph: 3.49

Alc: 14.8%

Vineyard Sources: The components of our Reserve come from select barrels of Platt Wenté Clone Chardonnay planted in the Frostwatch Vineyard located in Bennett Valley, a relatively new AVA in Sonoma County. This block was planted in 2008, on a very low vigor rootstock, at double the vine density of our other Chardonnay block. The Platt Wenté Clone produces small fruit clusters with small berries. As a result, the clone tends to produce wines with great flavor concentration. The vineyard benefits from a gap in the surrounding mountains that 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.

Winemaking: The wine was whole cluster pressed and then barrel fermented utilizing indigenous yeast. After the 21 day primary fermentation was complete, malolactic fermentation utilizing indigenous malolactic bacteria proceeded and finished in early March 2015. During the six months the wine was going through malolactic, the barrels were topped, stirred and topped weekly. The purpose of topping the barrel prior to stirring is to minimize oxidation. The frequent stirring heightens the sur lees character of the wine and acts to better integrate the oak notes from the barrels with the wine. The barrels selected for this wine were 33% new French oak and 66% once used French oak. The wine was aged in these barrels for 17 months. The wine was then fined and bottled unfiltered on April 14, 2016.

Back Story & Tasting Notes: Frostwatch has steadily been gaining a reputation for its Bennett Valley Chardonnays. The previous vintage of Ophira recently received a 94 rating from the Wine Enthusiast as well as a 91 from Connoisseurs Guide to California Wine and 90 points from Robert Parker. This wine exhibits generous notes of citrus and stone fruits on the nose, with a hint of crème brûlée (a character common to Frostwatch Chardonnays). On the palate, the wine is bright, but with a plushness that reveals well balanced fruit flavors and minerality with good acidity on a lengthy finish. The age-worthy wine will compliment many foods but has the complexity and richness to easily stand on its own.

Winemaker: Brett Raven

Release: 10/1/2016