

# CHATEAU MONTELENA

ESTABLISHED 1882

## 2023 Chardonnay, Napa Valley

### Winery

Over the last half-century, Chateau Montelena has garnered global recognition, crafting artisanal wines that evolve and endure, through the lens of their estate. Led by second-generation CEO Bo Barrett along with Winemaker Matthew Crafton, the winery continues to invest deeply in its land and refine its winemaking, all in pursuit of wines that express the character of their land and the nuances of each vintage.

### Wine

Chateau Montelena's Napa Valley Chardonnay combines the best of the old world: structure, acidity and grace with modern ripeness and texture. It eschews heavy oak and butter and instead showcases the purity of vintage, vineyard and varietal character. Most notably, the 1973 vintage earned international acclaim when it was named the top Chardonnay at the 1976 "Judgment of Paris", a historic moment that redefined the global perception of American wine and solidified Chateau Montelena's legacy on the world stage.

### Vineyards

Situated in the Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley, the Haire Loam soils are derived from ancient Alluvial fans that eroded down Mount Veeder, depositing gravel and clay throughout the region. The proximity to San Pablo Bay lends abundant morning fog and cool evening temperatures throughout the growing season.

### Vintage Notes

2023 will be remembered as one of the best in the last decade. Ample rains in the winter saturated the soils, priming the vines for an outstanding growing season. Spring began cool and remained that way, delaying budbreak by two to three weeks across the valley. Temperatures never really pushed above the 70's, even as May arrived. Overall, the summer was mild and pleasant with few periods of intense heat, an abundance of fog and plenty of afternoon sunshine. Heading into August, the question was whether the pattern would continue or if a more traditional hot end to the summer was in store. Thankfully, the mild conditions prevailed, capping an exceptional vintage, with the Chardonnay harvest beginning a week or so later than average.

### Harvest Dates

September 8 - October 10, 2023

### Tasting Notes

Cool vintages are something special. While there's certainly California luster and opulence in the margins, both are tucked away right now, overshadowed by lush pear, lime leaf and orange blossom. The minerality and tension on the palate are simply awesome and the acidity is bright and racy. Wines from these vintages tend to mature slightly more slowly than their warm-vintage cousins, so expect the parade of citrus, green apple and flinty minerals to dominate for the next few years. That said, the mouthfeel is just gorgeous with more gravitas and weight than expected at this time; a very pleasant surprise.



### Vineyard

Region:	California
Appellation:	Napa Valley
Sub-Appellation:	Calistoga
Soil:	Gravelly Alluvial Loams, rich in organic matter
Age/Exposure:	From 10 to 40 years, East to West oriented
Eco-Practices:	Sustainably farmed

### Winemaking

Varietals:	100% Chardonnay
Aging:	10 Months, 100% French Oak, 25% New
Bottling Dates:	July 23 - August 1, 2024

### Technical Details

Yeast:	Indigenous
Alcohol:	13.9%
Total Acidity:	7.1 g/L
pH:	3.26