

CHATEAU MONTELENA

ESTABLISHED 1882

2018 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

On the heels of a relatively dry winter, March and April brought ample rain and cool temperatures, delaying budbreak in the vineyard. June ushered in a very typical, warm, Napa Valley summer punctuated by cool nights especially into August. As a result, ripening was slow yet consistent, requiring patience and precise attention to flavor development and texture in the fruit. The vineyards were harvested over the course of an entire month, a luxury we took full advantage of.

Harvest Dates

August 27 - September 25, 2018

Tasting Notes

Golden straw in the glass, the wine opens with aromas of cinnamon and ripe peach layered with melon, fig, and pear. Initially more fruit-driven than floral, notes of honeysuckle and spice soften into green apple and vanilla. The palate reveals lemon curd and ripe orange, with lively tension between supple stone fruit and bright acidity, supported by a billowy texture, subtle minerality, and a whisper of fresh-baked bread. The finish is bright and fresh, with apricot and orange marmalade accented by toasted almond and clove.

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 29 - August 7, 2019

Technical Details

Yeast:	Indigenous
Alcohol:	13.9%
Total Acidity:	7.2 g/L
pH:	3.36