

brick & mortar

- est. 2011 -

2016
chardonnay
cougar rock vineyard
napa valley



TECHNICAL NOTES:

Vineyard Designate: Cougar Rock Vineyard
AVA: Napa Valley
Production: 155 cases
Alcohol: 13.0%
Release Date: May 15th, 2018

VINEYARD

The Antinori California vineyard is known to brick & mortar as Cougar Rock Vineyard, with the name stemming from the first sight of the craggy rock feature at the highest point of the estate by Piero Antinori in 1966.

Cougar Rock Vineyard was the sole source for our inaugural wines. Nestled from 1,450 to 1,800 feet above sea level, the vineyard lies due east of Yountville, high up in the Vaca Mountain Range of the eastern hills in Napa Valley. Within the range rests Foss Valley, the original throughway from the coast to the Sacramento Valley for the early settlers in California. In the heart of Foss Valley, the 1200-acre estate encompasses the furthest eastward portion of the Atlas Peak AVA in Napa Valley.

VINTAGE

The 2016 vintage was again early, but not as early as 2015. Yields were near normal in all vineyards with above-average quality. With a relatively even growing season that followed welcomed winter rains to alleviate drought conditions, the mild daytime high temperatures and colder nights aided in producing fruit with wonderful depth and concentration. 2016 will go down as the fifth consecutive vintage of exceptional fruit quality in Napa Valley.

WINEMAKING

We strive to allow the site to shine in every wine we produce. The Chardonnay is whole-cluster pressed and allowed to settle via gravity before being transferred to french oak barrels (33% new). Native primary and fermentation occur lasting upwards of six months. No malolactic fermentation nor *bâtonnage* is performed to the barrels in order to preserve a pure expression of the vineyard, as the intense sunlight of the site creates incredible texture in the fruit. Our Chardonnay is aged in barrels for ten months before a light fining and filtration prior to bottling.

WINE

The 2016 Cougar Rock Vineyard Chardonnay expresses precise Meyer lemon and Asian pear aromas with notes of hawthorn, quince and just ripe melon. The palate is headlined with a beautiful salty salinity and coupled with accents oyster shell and a chalky minerality. Well textured and structured, this Chardonnay fully expresses the granitic soils of the high mountainous ridge tops at Cougar Rock Vineyard. Beautiful in its youth, we expect this Chardonnay to age gracefully and improve over the next 10+ years.

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