



## 2009 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay

### Philosophy

Many have come to know Sierra Vista as a producer of high quality red wines from this unique mountain viticultural setting. Chardonnay is the primary white wine we produce to compliment our Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel. Barrel fermented and then aged for 10 months in 100% French Oak barrels, this wine possesses creamy, buttery characteristics that are not inherent in the Chardonnay grape, but develop during the winemaking process of malolactic fermentation and aging.

### Vineyard Source

The 2009 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay fruit is from our own Chardonnay vineyard, located right outside the picnic area here at the winery. It is at 2800 feet elevation on a rocky, volcanic based soil. The north eastern facing slope is the coolest spot on our ridge and makes an excellent site for Chardonnay where it was planted in 1982 making it an **Old Vine Vineyard**.

### 2009 Vintage

We had a normal spring with bud break at the usual time followed by a moderate summer. There was a late spring rain that allowed us to try a year of farming with almost no irrigation. The only vines we irrigated were the Roussanne so every thing else was dry farmed. This allowed the grapes to ripen to maturity without developing high sugar and thus high alcohol. We started harvesting in the first week of September, which is early.

### Tasting Notes

Our 2009 vintage was barrel fermented in older oak barrels and 1 new French oak barrel, custom made from 5 forests just for Sierra Vista, giving it a moderate amount of oak and only completed a partial malolactic fermentation. It has lovely aromas of pineapple, citrus, and vanilla: this wine fills your mouth with luscious tropical fruit with a hint of apple and a lingering finish and just a hint of butter. It is great with seafood dishes, roast chicken with herbs and pork tenderloin grilled with a mustard glaze.

John MacCready, Winemaker

Harvest Date	Sept 11
Sugar at Harvest	23.7 Brix
Bottling Date	March 2010
Release Date	Sept 2010
Cases Produced	101
Alc.	13.9%