



Huber Cellars

2005 Estate Chardonnay
(Stainless Steel Vinification)
Santa Rita Hills

Planted 20 years ago, the Huber Vineyard is one of the pioneers of what is now known as Santa (Sta.) Rita Hills. The old vines reach deep into the sandy loam soil of the vineyard, with the vertically-trellised shoots caressed each day by early morning fog and afternoon maritime breezes. The transverse west-east orientation of this western, cool part of the valley provides a near-perfect place to grow elegant Burgundian winegrape varieties such as Chardonnay. Each morning a marine fog blankets the vineyard, lifting to brilliant sunshine mid-morning. Like clockwork, sea breezes arrive in early afternoon to maintain the cool climate and aerate the vineyard canopy. Rain is minimal during the long growing season, which often begins with bud break in February and continues through harvest in October. All of these factors contribute to grapes of quality, distinction and variety purity from the Huber Vineyard.

2005 was an incredible vintage – beautiful ripening and larger than normal yields. The bountiful harvest allowed vintner Norman Huber and winemaker Norm Yost to craft a new addition to the Huber Cellars wine family – an unoaked Chardonnay. This new wine is purely about the fruit, and has no influence from barrels or malo-lactic fermentation; it is the essence of the vineyard. A cold and long fermentation preserved all of the bright, complex aromatics and resulted in a crisp, lively wine. A light straw color, with a hint of effervescence from the consistent cold temperatures up to bottling, glistens in the glass. The bouquet is of white clover blossoms, citrus and pear. Medium-bodied, the wine coats the palate with striking notes of citrus, apple and stone-like minerality. Yet, there is a roundness as well that is reminiscent of the texture and taste of a lemon-meringue pie. A pleasingly crisp and lively finish reminds you that this wine is best enjoyed with food and good company.

Harvested in October of 2005, the wine was bottled in April of 2006. 300 cases produced.
\$21.00 per bottle.

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