



## *Huber Cellars*

2007 Estate Chardonnay  
(Unoaked)  
Sta. Rita Hills

The 2007 vintage marks the second release of the much heralded Huber “unoaked” Chardonnay, produced in those years when the stars align, the weather cooperates and the pure essence of the Huber Chardonnay grapes can shine through in the wine. The equation of long growing season, old vines, oceanic influence and perfectly ripe fruit “worked” in 2007, allowing vintner Norman Huber and consulting winemaker Norm Yost to craft this quintessential expression of the vineyard and Sta. Rita Hills Chardonnay.

The Huber vineyard is the third oldest vineyard in what is now the acclaimed Sta. Rita Hills appellation. Planted in 1988, the eleven acres of Chardonnay vines reach deep into the sandy loam soil to consistently deliver crisp and classic, “Chablis style” wines. The transverse west-east nature of the valley, maritime fogs that blanket the vineyard until late morning, afternoon breezes from the nearby Pacific Ocean and the longest growing season in California combine to produce balanced, perfectly ripe clusters. The vineyard is meticulously farmed for the Hubers by the Brewer-Clifton Vineyard team.

2007 was a beautiful vintage for Chardonnay from the Huber Vineyard, although yields were tiny. A cold winter delayed budbreak, and semi-drought conditions throughout spring and summer resulted in very small clusters and berries with beautifully concentrated flavors. Picked about a month later than normal, the grapes were whole-cluster pressed to cold stainless steel tanks for fermentation, where they remained sur lie until being bottled in the Spring of 2008. Malolactic fermentation was inhibited to showcase the fruit and the terroir of the Huber Vineyard.

A pale, spun straw color with subtle chartreuse highlights glints in the glass. A swirl produces a lively bouquet of lemongrass, key lime blossom and asian pear. On the palate, there is a nice roundness of lemon curd balanced with the lively acidity of citrus. Additional nuances of honeydew melon, just ripe apricot and lemon verbena merge with the unmistakable stony minerality so typical of Huber Chardonnay. Elegantly crisp, beautifully balanced, wonderfully refreshing and food friendly! Just 180 cases produced.

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