

# Cakebread Cellars



## 2017 Chardonnay, Cuttings Wharf Vineyard Carneros Napa Valley

### Vineyards

Our Cuttings Wharf vineyard in the Carneros district of southern Napa Valley boasts six high-quality French clones of chardonnay, all planted in the shallow clay loam soils common to Carneros's rolling eastern plains. Subject to foggy mornings and cool afternoon breezes from nearby San Pablo Bay, Carneros is Napa Valley's coolest growing region and thus ideal for the cultivation of chardonnay. In 2017, we blended four of our clones (55% Dijon 95, 20% Wente Hyde, 16% Wente Hudson, and 9% Dijon 96) to craft this beautifully fresh, rich and structured wine.

### Vintage 2017

The winter of 2017 was one of the wettest on record in the last 3 decades, providing ample moisture to help protect the vines later in the growing season. The winter months gave way to a mild spring that led to a long, moderate summer. The long growing season allowed for the chardonnay to reach maximum phenological ripeness without the big increase of sugar. Picking before the typical heat spikes helped preserve acidity.

### Winemaking

Night-harvesting and whole-cluster-pressing of our Cuttings Wharf chardonnay grapes extracts the freshest, purest juice possible. In 2017, we fermented 100% of the juice in French oak barrels, with 10% native yeast fermentation. In addition, 26% went through a secondary, malolactic fermentation to add a subtle creaminess. The wine aged 15 months *sur lie* (on the yeast lees) in 34% new French oak, with periodic stirring of the lees to enhance texture, richness and complexity. This year we tried something new—using puncheons for 4% of the wine, which is actually an older technique used prior to the 1970's. This offers a lower ratio of wood to wine, thus creating a more subtle wood impact on the wine, preserving the fruit character. In addition, 9% underwent aging in our concrete eggs, allowing for the acidity to soften, creating enhanced body and mouthfeel.

### Tasting Notes

Floral aromas accent flavors of golden apple, pear, white peach and lively citrus. Rich and full-bodied, yet elegant and finely structured, the wine boasts a long, refreshing finish with fresh apple and mineral tones. Delicious now, this classic single-vineyard, cool-climate Napa Valley chardonnay will develop beautifully in bottle for another 3-5 years.

**Grape variety:** 100% Chardonnay

**Vineyards:** Carneros, Napa Valley, Cuttings Wharf Vineyard

**Harvest dates:** August 26 – September 5, 2018

**Fermentation:** 100% barrel, 30% malolactic

**Ageing:** 87% aged 15 months *sur lie* in French oak barrels, 34% new, with periodic stirring of the yeast lees, 9% in concrete egg, 4% puncheon

**Alcohol:** 13.9%

**Total acidity:** .075g/100ml

**pH:** 3.30

**Bottled:** January, 2019

**Winemaker:** Stephanie Jacobs