



## **2011 Chardonnay, Mendocino County:**

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As with all prior 13 vintages, the grapes for this wine came from a terraced hillside vineyard along Reeves Canyon located north of Ukiah, south of Willits, west of Highway 101, all part of the original Ridgewood Ranch, Seabiscuit's retirement home. Its gravelly soils and proximity to cooling influence of winds and fog that intrude off the Pacific Ocean make a distinctive style of fruit that defines our Chardonnay. Packed with concentrated fruit flavors, this Chardonnay demonstrates the intensity that results from sustainable natural farming and attentive winemaking techniques.

## **Winemaker's Comments:**

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"The 2011 early growing season in Mendocino County offered ideal conditions for producing high quality Chardonnay. The weather was fairly mild all summer with few heat spikes. Weather pushed harvest back to mid-October that allowed for ample grape hang time for development of full fruit flavors. This is always desirable for optimal aromas, flavors and balance with natural fruit acidity. Early October rains occurred before harvest. The grapes were sorted and picked by hand, delivered to winery, crushed, pressed and the must transferred directly to oak barrels for primary fermentation. After inoculation for secondary malolactic fermentation, the wine aged on yeast lees in small American oak barrels (medium toast) for eleven months. This wine is supported by a toasty oak aroma and flavor that is very inviting. The malolactic fermentation provides a buttery elegance to complement the clean ripe fruit flavors of Mendocino County winegrapes. The wine was filtered and bottled in August 2012."

## **Food Affinities:**

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Seabiscuit Ranch Chardonnay is our limited-release version of a "reserve" style of Chardonnay. Rich complex fruit flavors abound, with an underpinning of pleasant oak aromas, all supported by bright acidity. The wine is styled to be an elegant accompaniment to foods and is flavorful of green apples and pears, with mouth-filling flavors and a long-lasting finish. Serve with seafood, poultry or light pasta, or as a complement to cheeses and hors d'oeuvres. Enjoy!

## **Technical Information:**

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Harvested:	October 13, 2011
Average sugar at harvest:	24.2 degrees Brix.
Blend:	100 percent Chardonnay.
Fermentation:	100 percent in small 'American' Minnesota oak barrels; 35 percent new oak for the 2011 vintage.
Alcohol at bottling:	14.2 percent by volume.
Bottling:	August 7, 2012
Production:	519 cases (12x750ml)
UPC:	0 83663 60501 0