

Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

1997 Napa Valley Chardonnay

TASTING NOTES

The Chardonnay vineyards on Keenan's Spring Mountain Estate were replanted in spring of 1995, and as a result Keenan would not harvest Estate Chardonnay again until September of 1999. In the interim, Keenan has contracted Chardonnay from select vineyards on the floor of the Napa Valley. Despite these vineyard changes, this wine continues the Keenan tradition of producing a crisp classic style Chardonnay.

The 1997 growing season allowed the Chardonnay grapes to mature fully, and we were able to harvest the fruit at a perfect balance of sugar and acidity. After pressing, the juice was chilled and allowed to settle before being placed in French oak barrels. Yeast was added to the juice and a barrel fermentation lasting ten days followed. No secondary, or malolactic, fermentation was carried out, leading to the crisp, citrus character of this wine. As always, the Chardonnay was barrel aged in approximately one-third new oak barrels, and one half of the lot was left on its lees and stirred weekly. The wine was aged for nine months before it was bottled.

The finished wine shows grapefruit and lemon peel in the nose, yet tropical hints of pineapple are noticed as the wine opens up. The sur-lie aging has added complexity to the ripe pear and crisp apple flavors, and plenty of oak character returns on the finish. Like all of Keenan's wines, this Chardonnay is a food worthy wine whose crisp acidity and medium body will accompany a wide variety of well seasoned dishes.

REVIEWS

Chardonnay-du-Monde - Chardonnay of the World 2000 **Bronze Medal**
International Competition of the Best Chardonnay in the World
Keenan '97 Chardonnay scored in the top 30% of 882 wines entered in the 2000
Chardonnay-du-Monde.
Wine Enthusiast Magazine **87 Points**

WINE DATA

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|------------------------|-------------------|
| Alcohol: | 13.5% |
| Total Acidity: | 0.70 grams/100 ml |
| pH: | 3.28 |
| Residual Sugar: | Dry |
| Bottling Date: | May 8, 1998 |
| Production: | 1,823 cases |
| Blend: | 100% Chardonnay |