

THE
STEVEN KENT
WINERY

2002 Merrillie Chardonnay
DeMayo Vineyard, Livermore Valley

Vineyard Site: DeMayo Vineyard, Livermore Valley

Varietal Composition: Wente Clone 4 Chardonnay

Harvest Date: August 2002

Vinification: Hand harvested fruit was brought into the winery early in the day and was whole-cluster pressed. The resulting juice was put into stainless steel tanks for 48 hours to allow solids to settle out then it was barreled down into 100% new French oak barrels. • The wine was aged *sur lie* for 20 months and the lees were stirred weekly. 100% of the wine underwent malolactic fermentation. • After racking into clean barrels several times during the aging process to clarify the wine, it was bottled with minimal filtration.

Barrel Regimen: 20 months in 100% new French oak barrels. Barrels from Damy, Taransaud, Francois Frères, Seguin-Moreau, and Demptos were used. Only medium-toast barrels were used in the aging of Merrillie.

Wine Metrics: pH: 3.83 TA: 6.0 g/l Brix: 25.9 Alc.: 14.7% Cases Produced: 1,000

Tasting Notes: This wine offers immense draughts of fresh-baked bread, butterscotch, Crenshaw melon, lime peel, and wet stones. In the mouth, the wine is extremely rich and viscous—qualities contributed to the wine by full malolactic fermentation and *sur lie* aging for 20 months in 100% new French oak barrels. • The pleasingly lush mouthfeel (richer than 2001 in the mid-palate) is sharply defined by bracing acidity that carries flavors of lemon curd and gala apples to an extremely long conclusion. If history is any augur, this beautiful wine will only begin to show true abundance of flavor and aroma and complete integration in 24-36 months. • Merrillie is named for my father's mother—my grandmother. Her warmth and generosity of spirit have been both comfort and inspiration for us. Even as an adult she was described as being a little iconoclastic, never one to fall too much in line with her contemporaries. • Dedicated to her memory, we hope this wine, our finest Chardonnay to date, brings to you the same joy Merrillie brought to us.