



HILL FAMILY  
E S T A T E

2009 Napa Valley  
Chardonnay

Production: 116 cases  
Composition: 100% Chardonnay  
Vineyards: Watson (American Canyon)  
Appellation: Napa Valley 86%, Russian River 14%  
Elevation: foothills about 500 ft, and rolling hills  
Cooperage: neutral oak  
Alcohol: 14.2%, TA 0.67, pH 3.61

The 2009 Hill Family Estate Chardonnay is made to focus on fruit character. It is defined by what it is not; no malo-lactic fermentation, no new oak, and no high alcohol. Cool foggy weather in most of 2009 made it an easy ripening year for Chardonnay, and an even tempered August and September made ripening anxiety free. Watson Vineyard, down in American Canyon is a cool, steep hillside vineyard with windy afternoons and great depth of flavor. It was harvested on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 24.6 Brix, just before the big rains started, barrel fermented in neutral oak, and stirred every 2 weeks for 10 months. It gained an elegant velvety texture, and we blended in 14% of the family's Chardonnay vineyard in Russian River to add another layer for complexity.

Winemaker Alison Doran's Tasting notes: bottled September 9, 2010, tasted 9/10/11

Nose) Lovely true to varietal aromas of ripe apple, pear, and hints of lemon oil  
Palate) Clean and balanced apple butterscotch flavors with chiseled self contained fruit character. With no identifiable oak, butter, or sugar, this wine is made for the Chardonnay purist who wants elegance and grace with their pan-fried sole.