
BARNARD GRIFFIN

2016 Chardonnay - COLUMBIA VALLEY

Harvested: 8/31/16

Date of first Bottling: July, 2017 | Cases produced: 13940

Vineyard Locations and AVA's : Caroway Vineyard (Columbia Valley), Arete Vineyard (Columbia Valley) Lonesome Spring Ranch (Yakima Valley), Crawford Vineyard (Yakima Valley)

Vintage Notes: Coming off 2015, our hottest (and earliest) harvest on record, we were prepared for another year of record-breaking temps, off-the-chart acids, and fruit arriving on our crush pad well before Labor Day. A record early bud break was followed by a warmish spring which caused early leaf and shoot development. May and June only reassured this line of thinking. It was hot. The grapes were ripening at a worrisome rate- the alcohol was going to be high and we were concerned about getting the acidity we're so used to in the Columbia Valley... in other words, 2016 was shaping up to be a year that broke all the records.

Then, July happened. Or, we suppose, didn't happen. It was a perfect example of that very interesting bit of life in which as soon as you think you know what's going on, it manifests into something entirely different. In many areas, July was the hottest month the earth has seen in modern times... but in Washington, in our vineyards... it was relatively cool.

Growth was moderated and slowed, ripening halted while the sugars and acids started to balance. August began with lamb-like intensity, coaxing along the grapes into an early- but not outrageous- start to harvest.

Varietal Composition: 100% Chardonnay

Winemaking: 38% barrel fermented in French oak

wine pH: 3.6 | Total acidity: .67 | Residual Sugar: Trace (dry) | Alcohol: 13.4%

Malolactic status: partial at approximately 35%

Winemaker's Comments: "This Chardonnay has an intriguing combination of citrusy aromas, firm acidity and a very ripe flavor profile; another outstanding vintage for the variety. Offering both classic Washington Chardonnay style and structure, this crisp, refreshing white doesn't disappoint. Layers of apple, pear and tangerine greet the palate with an underpinning of toasty oak. Excellent as an everyday wine to accompany a broad range of foods."


Rob Griffin, Proprietor-Winemaker