



# BENZIGER

FAMILY WINERY

## 2008 Chardonnay, Carneros

Alcohol 13.5% | Total Acidity .67 | pH 3.23



**Release Date** | September 2009

**Retail Price** | \$16

**TASTING NOTES** | Our Carneros Chardonnay is a bright, clean wine with excellent balance of fruit and structure. In this vintage, flavors of ripe peach and pear are followed by notes of soft vanilla. Barrel aging contributes to a round, satisfying mouthfeel with very subtle oak flavor.

**VINTAGE** | “Extreme” would be a good description of the 2008 vintage. The elements played a huge roll in our vineyard management – from frost, to drought, to high winds, to heat waves and eventually smoke from fires hundreds of miles away, we were hard at work from start to finish. Initially, harvest began early in August, but cooler temperatures slowed things down a bit and the rest of the harvest was evenly paced and lasted into October. The 2008 vintage was excellent for Chardonnay.

**WINEMAKING** | The cool Carneros climate gives us Chardonnay with natural acidity. All of the fruit was whole-cluster pressed before cold barrel fermentation. We fermented and aged the wine in oak barrels for eight months. The traditional practice of batonnage was used to build body, texture and to integrate flavors.

**BENZIGER FARMING PRACTICES** | At Benziger Family Winery, we are dedicated to winemaking that reveals the true character of the vineyard, the varietal and the vintage in certified-sustainable, -organically grown and-Biodynamic® wines defined by individuality and the passion of the people who make them. Through our commitment to natural farming and environmentally and socially responsible business practices, we strive for sustainability and the preservation of our Sonoma Mountain family winery for generations to come.

This wine was made with grapes grown by certified sustainable farming methods. Our sustainable philosophy promotes natural vineyard management, restoration of the land and biodiversity on the estate. We believe these practices result in wines that reflect the authentic flavors, aromas and character of the vineyard.