



2011 Chardonnay

Freedom Hill Vineyard

Release Date: November 15, 2012

Retail Price: \$24.00

Production: 1,730 cases

Crop Level: 3.8 tons/acre

**Harvested: October 21,
2011**

Bottled: September 2012

Alcohol: 13%

**Suggested Pairings:
Rich white meat dishes,
rich fishes, wild birds,
risottos, and cheeses**

**Aging Recommendations:
Up to 8 years**

Available Bottlings:
• 750 mL Bottles

Vineyard Notes

Freedom Hill is located in the foothills of the coast range 10 miles southwest of Salem, Oregon. The Chardonnay blocks have a southeast exposure at an elevation of 425' and benefit from heat rising off the valley floor. Hills to the east protect the vines from strong coastal winds. The vines were planted in 1999 and 2006 with Dijon clones 76 and 548 on well-drained silty clay loam.

Production Notes

The grapes were whole cluster pressed. After settling, the juice was fermented in barrels using three yeasts. The wine finished malolactic fermentation and was aged sur lees for twelve months entirely in used French oak barrels.

Vintage Notes

The 2011 season began with a very cool spring. This delayed shoot growth and the flowering phase occurred later than in any previous Oregon vintage. The summer was relatively warm and disease-free. The weather cooled in September and became cloudy by early October. With the late start of the season, the grapes desperately needed sun to complete the ripening process. By mid-October the sun returned and continued to shine into November. Harvest began in mid-to-late October and was the latest in our 24-year history.

Tasting Notes

The 2011 Freedom Hill Chardonnay has a detailed and focused nose of apples and pears with spice and ripe citrus notes. Bright acidity and layers of stoniness - both river stones and the "stone" of a peach, balance fresh fruit flavors. These flavors extend across the palate and the minerality broadens into the finish. The combination of layered fruit, length, and complex undercurrent of minerality makes it a good match for richer white meat dishes.