

Domaine Eden

Technical notes

2011 Chardonnay Santa Cruz Mountains

Yield: 3 tons per acre
Harvest: October 1st-3rd
Numbers @ Harvest: 22.5° Brix
3.50 pH
7.7 grams acidity

Barrel Regimen - French 30% new; aged 11 months in barrel *sur-lie*
Bottling - August 2012

1,288 cases produced

About Domaine Eden

Domaine Eden is a nearby mountaintop wine estate purchased by Mount Eden Vineyards in 2007. It was founded and built by the late Tom Mudd in 1983, and was initially planted with the Mount Eden clonal selections of Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon, which evolved to include Pinot Noir from various Dijon and California selections.

The viticulture at Domaine Eden is approached with the same level of naturalness and sustainability as Mount Eden's estate vineyards. The soils here, however, are different from the estate's Franciscan shale so even though Domaine Eden is a mere mile away "as the crow flies", the wines express more varietal fruit with expansive mid-palate flavors than the soil-driven minerality of Mount Eden estate wines.

With the differences in vineyard character, the property inspired a new wine brand, Domaine Eden, which focuses on Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from this special site and Bordeaux varieties from Mount Eden's larger home, the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Winemakers notes at release: Spring 2014

A freakish winter-like storm blew through our vineyards in the first week of June 2011. The rain and cold winds took a toll on our Chardonnay vines— which were in the middle of flowering. The crop loss was a devastating 40%. The silver lining though, a summer that proceeded perfectly and harvest commencing late in September under ideal conditions.

With such a small yield, you would expect a high level of concentration and innate complexity. This happened along with great acidity and freshness. Our barrel selection was 26% from Mount Eden and 74% from Domaine Eden. Totally barrel fermented and aged on the *lees* for eleven months.

Toasty notes of lanolin, gardenia blossom and lime zest aromas are inviting and abundant. On the palate there is a beguiling contrast of great mid-palate energy and length with overall elegance. Flavors of hazelnut, citrus and wild sage are subtle yet pervasive.

This is the best Domaine Eden Chardonnay we have made. Aging potential is at least to 2018.