

Wine Profiles, Tasting Notes - Précis

<u>Winemaker</u>: Philippe Melka, Bordeaux-bred (*Chateau Haut Brion, Petrus*) and—heralded by Robert Parker as one of the top nine winemakers in the world. "Where possible, I will minimize winemaking techniques in the cellar so I can create a wine that tells the story of the vineyard. In the end, it must be about the fruit."

2012 Napa Valley Chardonnay: 100% Chardonnay; 550 cases produced: \$60

The nose of our 2012 Napa Valley Chardonnay beckons with alluring aromas of exotic tropical fruits and lightly toasted brioche. Full in the mouth with rich, ripe fruit; the wine reveals delicate leesy notes, along with a well-balanced acidity. By way of barrel fermentation and 18 months of aging in 75% new French oak, the wine is both pretty and plush... leaving a memorable impression of elegance, structure, brightness and versatility.

2012 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay: 100% Chardonnay; 300 cases produced: \$65

The inviting nose conjures up a mélange of citrus, tropical fruit, and rich lees. In the mouth, the wine is teasingly reminiscent of a fine Chablis, albeit with layers of lemon bar, orange blossom and light minerality beckoning. Framed ever so delicately with prized French oak, this vibrant wine with its pleasing acidity, delicate texture and remarkable balance, should age with graceful refinement.

2011 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon: 100% Cabernet; 954 cases produced: \$90

Our 2011 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon entices with a rich fruity nose, lightly accented with violets and spice. The evocative mouth opens with ripe black cherries and immediately impresses with hints of clove, accompanied by a tantalizing dusting of cocoa powder on the mid-palate. With 18-months of aging in fine French oak; the wine reveals a pleasing acidity, and finely grained tannins that tease the palate,...leaving a satisfying finish of black fruit and leather.

2011 Howell Mountain Hillside Blend: 42% Merlot, 58% Cab, 596 cases produced: \$95

Richly deep and crimson in hue, the wine's aromas signal what's in-store by way of its bold dark fruits, and spice. With a notable swagger, the wine's arrival is trumpeted with notes of rustic black cherry and wild strawberry, accented by anise and savory sage. Brazenly concentrated, and rustic through the mid-palate, the wine evens its disposition with a balanced acidity and deliciously chewy finish. Aged twenty six months in French oak (67% new), the wine is a resounding testimonial to this heralded appellation, and will age handsomely in the bottle over the next 5-10 years.

2011 Cor Leonis Cabernet Sauvignon: 100% Cabernet; 312 cases produced: \$195

Bearing an extraordinary combination of fruit from a trifecta of Napa Valley's most celebrated vineyard blocks, our 2011 Cor Leonis Cabernet is the hallmark of our winemaking philosophy. The wine's expressive nose entices with aromas of blackberry and spice. In the mouth, these give way to layers of rich, ripe black fruits that are subtly nuanced with minerality, cocoa, and clove. Twenty six months of aging in 90% new French oak provides elegant framing for this wine's concentration and intensity. With its seamless integration of both sweet and finely grained tannins, the wine is opulent on the palate, and delivers a silky finish of length and elegance. *Also available in 3/6/12-packs, and large format bottles.*



Selected Accolades

- Winemaker-Philippe Melka: Named by Robert Parker as "... one of the top 9 winemakers in the world..."
- "The star among current releases ...with a wine structure that is as precise, supple, and vibrant as Bach's cello suite." *Robb Report*
- "It is rare to see such mastery from a winery ... whose wines demonstrate such extraordinary depth and range of expression. Their latest releases announce the arrival of an important new producer that deserves notice from every dyed-in-the-wool devotee of the grape." *California Connoisseurs' Guide*, October 2014
- Selected and served at the presidential summit attended by U.S. President Obama, and China's President Xi-Jinping; Rancho-Mirage, June 2013

• 2012 Moone-Tsai Sonoma Coast Chardonnay, Charles Heintz Vineyard

o "...Full-bodied and impeccably balanced from front to back; ...it moves to the very head of the class for its uncanny ability to be both remarkably rich and very light on its feet. It is a masterful wine that compels contemplation, and it will age famously for many years. 97 points – California Connoisseurs' Guide

• 2012 Moone-Tsai Napa Valley Chardonnay

o "...a wine of grand depth and breadth, its near-profligate richness is matched by very careful construction, and its very enthusiastic recommendation comes without caveat or condition." 95 points – California Connoisseurs' Guide

2010 Moone-Tsai Cor Leonis Cabernet

- "Strikingly beautiful, ...delineated, vibrant, gorgeous"; **94 points** Robert Parker's Wine Advocate
- o "Strikingly rich, powerful...Wows with finesse and nuance"; 94 points Jim Laube, Wine Spectator

2010 Moone-Tsai Howell Mountain Hillside Blend

o "Spectacular...with terrific aromatics, admirable ripe fruit, richness and a full-bodied mouth-feel;... a bigtime winner"; 95 points – Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

• <u>2009 Moone-Tsai Cabernet Cor Leonis</u>

- o "Perfectly integrated, balanced, absolutely fabulous..."; 95 points Wine Enthusiast
- o "Head-turning"; 93 points CA Connoisseurs' Guide

• 2008 Moone-Tsai Cabernet Cor Leonis

- o "Heart of the lion, indeed. Impressively deep, complex, ...remarkable; ...the most exciting Cab discovery of 2011"; **96 points** *CA Connoisseurs Guide*
- o "Rich, refined, ...tempered by firm minerality"; 96 points Wine Enthusiast

• 2008 Moone-Tsai Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

o 2011 Top 100 Wines of the Year; 95 points – Wine Enthusiast