

BETHEL HEIGHTS CHARDONNAY

Chardonnay has been the preeminent white wine at Bethel Heights from the beginning, on the assumption that if the Willamette Valley is the perfect place to grow great Pinot noir, then it must be the perfect place to grow great cool climate Chardonnay.

Today we have six different blocks of Chardonnay planted between 1977 and 2008, in various sites around our Estate vineyards, including five different clonal selections.

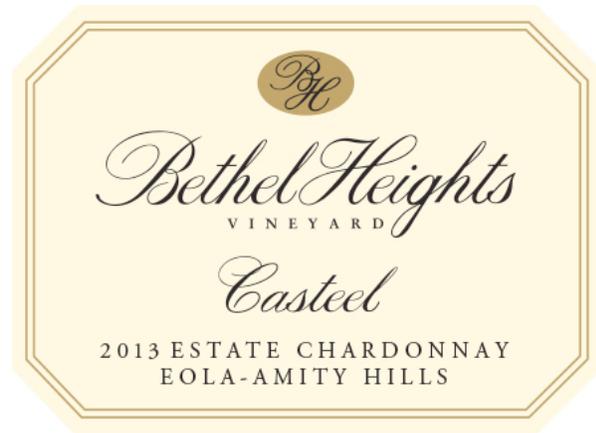
THE 2013 VINTAGE through most of the growing season was on track to be become another warm, early, plump vintage like 2012. Early budbreak, early bloom, and a warm summer meant that at Bethel Heights by mid-September most of our white grapes were an obvious choice for an early pick. Thus all of our Chardonnay was in the door before the famous 2013 rain event that interrupted our harvest at the end of September.

Bethel Heights Casteel Chardonnay 2013

***"One of the best New World
Chardonnays I've ever drunk."***

"Lovely full Chard fruit not overwhelmed by too much oak, and set off by a fine citrus crispness that makes it super with food. This is a serious wine for thoughtful wine drinkers, and will be even better in 2 or 3 years when its rambunctious, adolescent vitality has mellowed a bit." Forbes.com, 5/30/15

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2013 CHARDONNAY • CASTEEL

LIVE Certified Sustainable

Date picked: September 27, 2013

Grapes at harvest: Brix 21.5, pH 3.1, TA 6.2 gr/Liter

Finished wine: Alcohol 13.0%, pH: 3.23, TA: 5.8 gr/Liter

100 Cases produced (200 6-bottle cases)

Bottled September 9, 2014

Suggested retail \$60

THE CASTEEL CHARDONNAY

Our family name on this reserve Chardonnay is our license to choose our personal favorite lots from the vintage and give them the luxury of a long slow fermentation in barrique, yielding a wine of purity and freshness with outstanding structure and concentration. In 2013 these were the selected lots:

10% Justice Vineyard, Dijon selection 95, planted 1999
Outstanding structure and concentration

90% Bethel Heights Vineyard, Dijon selection 76, planted 1994
Outstanding purity and freshness

VINIFICATION: The fruit was whole-cluster pressed, and barrel fermented in four 228 L barrels. The wine was aged on the lees with complete malolactic fermentation, and bottled after twelve months in barrel.

TASTING NOTES: Our 2013 Casteel Chardonnay has all of the characteristics we look for from truly great vintages: energy, tension between the acidity and fruit, and a long harmonious finish. This wine should age gracefully over the next five to seven years.