

IRONSTONE

Vineyards

2016 Chardonnay

In 1926, the Kautz family began farming in the Lodi region and in 1948, John Kautz Farms was founded. In 1990, after many successful years of growing wine grapes, the family completed the Ironstone Winery. The Ironstone Winery is a modern replica of an 1859 Gold Stamp Mill complete with tasting room, gourmet delicatessen, wine aging cavern, conference and wedding facilities, outdoor Amphitheatre, and 14.5 acres of landscaped gardens. The Heritage Museum and Jewelry Shoppe contains artifacts from the gold rush era, as well as the largest specimen of Crystalline Gold Leaf—a 44 lb. treasure. The family philosophy of winemaking is that quality wine grapes, a touch of artistry and patience create captivating elegant wines.



Winemaking Processes

Fully mature grapes were harvested on September 18, 2016 at 25.6 Brix. Prime Chardonnay clusters were hand selected for their outstanding quality and then experienced a gentle, whole-cluster pressing. The wine was aged “sur lie” in new French oak barrels that were hand stirred weekly for the initial four months of the aging process. This process caused the wine to undergo spontaneous malolactic fermentation. The casks were stored in our underground wine caverns that remain a natural 60 degrees Fahrenheit year-round temperature. This Chardonnay received additional bottle aging prior to release.

Winemaker Notes

The 2016 Reserve Chardonnay is a classic Chardonnay full of expressive flavors and aromas. Exhibiting fine mineral qualities that are a hallmark of grapes produced in the Sierra Foothills, the Reserve Chardonnay has an extremely concentrated tropical fruit flavor with nuances of butterscotch, vanilla and ripe apple. The nose opens with savory scents of butter toffee and vanilla followed by exotic notes of spice and melon.

Vineyard Notes

Hay Station Ranch has been in the Kautz Family for four generations. What started as a cattle ranch has now become home to over 100 acres of premium mountain vineyards located adjacent to the Ironstone winery and entertainment complex. Ironstone’s Reserve Program focuses on three key elements: appellation, vineyards and winemaking artistry.

Awards

Wine Enthusiast, Mar. 2016

87 Points (v. 2013)

Wine Enthusiast, Sep. 2014

91 Points (v. 2012)

Appellation: Sierra Foothills

Sub AVA: Calaveras County

Blend: 100% Chardonnay

UPC: 7 24826 03125 2

Aging: 12 months in small French oak

Alcohol: 14.5%

pH: 3.49

TA: 5.4 g/L

RS: 2.6 g/L