

Chateau Ste Michelle®

2006 ETHOS CHARDONNAY

TASTING NOTES

“My goal for the Ethos Chardonnay is old world complexity and elegance with concentrated Washington fruit. This 2006 bottling is sourced predominately from our vineyard at Canoe Ridge Estate (70%) and shows the delicacy of Canoe Ridge Estate fruit. This Chardonnay is all about refinement, elegance and complexity with beautiful fruit and understated spice. This is our truly age-worthy Chardonnay.”



Bob Bertheau, Winemaker

VINTAGE

- 2006 was a year of extremes in weather.
- A cooler than normal, wet spring was followed by a very long, hot summer.
- The weather was nearly ideal during the growing season. Summer fell into a consistent pattern of dry weather, warm days and cool nights.
- Harvest began early, with some white grapes being picked in late August.
- A cool spell in mid-September slowed things down and allowed more hang time for enhanced flavor development.

VINEYARD

- Chardonnay from our vineyard at Canoe Ridge Estate made up over 70% of the blend.
- An ideal site for Chardonnay, the vineyard at Canoe Ridge Estate lies on the north bank of the Columbia River.
- The site's proximity to the river protects it from temperature extremes, allowing uniform ripening and excellent color development.
- Fruit from our Cold Creek and Horse Heaven vineyards also contributed to the blend.

WINEMAKING

- A third of the blend underwent natural fermentation for more interesting nuances and complexity.
- Individual lots were managed separately, allowing the winemaker to identify the best lots for Ethos.
- Barrel fermented in 82% new and one-year-old French oak for enhanced complexity.
- 100% *sur lie* aged for nearly nine months to integrate the fruit and oak flavors and provide a rich mouthfeel.
- Malolatic fermentation also took place to add softness, balance and depth.



TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol 14.1%
Total acidity 0.55g/100ml
pH 3.44
Blend 100% Chardonnay
Cases produced 2,400

FOOD PAIRINGS

Foods Pasta with mushrooms, salmon, veal
Spices Thyme, lemon zest

