



CARMEL ROAD™

NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2009

### Greetings from Carmel Road.

In previous newsletters I've written about our terroir and the effect it has on our wines. In addition to the cool temperatures and strong winds, our vineyards also have unique soils that bring additional complexity and character to our wines. This month we're releasing two new Chardonnays that illustrate the climate, geology and topography of our incredible vineyards.

As its name suggests, our 2007 "Liberated" Chardonnay is fermented and aged in stainless steel tanks to preserve the personality of the grape and the character of the site. The grapes come from the 1100-acre Clark Ranch in the Arroyo Seco AVA of Monterey. This remarkable site, set in the afternoon shadows of the Santa Lucia range, is slightly warmer than most vineyards in the valley. It features alluvial fans of sand and gravel loam over ancient riverbed cobblestones. The pebbly subsoil provides excellent drainage and adds a mineral component to the Chardonnays grown here. The aromatics are bursting with acacia blossoms, perennial flowers and tropical fruit. The flavors are full, concentrated and intense. The finish is firm, clean and true with a strong sense of terroir-driven minerality.

We're also releasing the first of our "Soil Series" wines. The 2007 Chualar Loam Chardonnay comes from the 254-acre Porter Ranch situated on west-facing foothills below the Gabilan Range. One of the highest vineyards in the Salinas Valley (800 feet above sea level), it was planted in 2001 to Pinot Noir and Chardonnay (clones: 4, 6, 15, 17, 39, 76, 78, 95, 96, Z). Chualar Loam is a coarse, sandy, rocky/loam soil formed eons ago by gradual erosion of the Gabilan Mountains. First identified in 1925, Chualar Loam is found in the intermountain valleys of the Coast Range of California. Its excellent drainage capabilities, low nutritional value and high mineral content make it an ideal medium for vines. Our 2007 Chualar Loam Chardonnay is rich, dense, firm and creamy with exotic aromas of citrus, melon, kiwi and flower blossoms.

Upcoming Soil Series wines will include the Placentia Pinot Noir and the Chualar Pinot Noir. More on them later.

I hope this information helps you better understand and appreciate our wines and I look forward to speaking with you next newsletter.

Sincerely,

Ivan Giotenov

