

# CHÂTEAU DES CHARMES 2005 HARVEST REPORT

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2005

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**Grape Variety:** Chardonnay Musqué (Clone 809)

**Vineyard Block:** St. David's Bench Vineyard, east of the Château

**Sub-appellation:** St. David's Bench

**Weather Conditions:** Sunny with a few clouds, 23°C

**Yield:** 2.3 tonnes per acre

**Brix:** 22.5°

**ph:** 3.18

**Total Acidity:** 7.5

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## Field Notes:

Clonal selection is an interesting part of viticulture. Within each grape variety there are several, sometimes many, different clones to choose from. Think of clones like siblings, they are closely related but each have their own personalities. Chardonnay is a big family with more than 40 different clones. Paul Sr. has experimented with many over the years but has settled on a hand-full that seem to work best on our vineyard sites. One of these clones is Clone 809, one of the Musqué clones. Clone 77 can also be considered Musqué. The name Musqué is used to describe wines made exclusively from these clones because, while they are Chardonnay, they are particularly aromatic on the nose. This pretty perfume is reminiscent of the nose on wine made from the Muscat grape, an aromatic white wine native to Alsace in northeast France and in southern France.

In the vineyard, Musqué has a temperament quite different from its Chardonnay siblings. Musqué is not as resilient to either cold temperature or disease as the other Chardonnay clones. But, with tender care, Clone 809 can give you good fruit. In addition to being an aromatic white wine, it can also be quite fresh on the palate with a strong acidic backbone. Many wine producers blend Clones 809 and 77 with the other Chardonnay clones to help improve the acid balance in a generic Chardonnay. Since 2002, we have kept Clone 809 separate and have used it to produce an unoaked Chardonnay under our Estate Bottled (black label) series of wines. We believe this crisp, refreshing wine is a nice change from a traditional oaked Chardonnay.



The last few drops of Chardonnay Musqué (Clone 809) coming from the press.



Chardonnay Musqué (Clone 809) juice  
collected in the trough under the press.

As always, please feel free to email me directly if you have any suggestions or questions. Watch for many more postings as the harvest continues.

*Michèle Bosc*

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