



*“Mountain
vineyards,
classical
winemaking,
limited
production”*

**ALEXANDER MOUNTAIN
ESTATE**

*High above Alexander Valley
Sonoma County*

Planted 1980

Chardonnay selection:

Old Wente 100%

Elevation: 1,500 – 2,000 feet

Soil: volcanic-origin Kidd series
and decomposed shale

Exposure: west-southwest



PETER MICHAEL
WINERY

2002
CUVÉE INDIGÈNE
Chardonnay



**VINTAGE
NOTES**

A mild and fairly dry Spring ushered in a healthy start for the vines in 2002. An even bloom and fruit-set provided an above average crop size which allowed crop thinning as the season dictated. Several heat spikes during the Summer were tempered by great air circulation thanks to the vineyard's lofty elevation. A final flush of heat over Labor Day weekend brought the fruit to optimal ripeness.

**WINEGROWING
NOTES**

Cuvée Indigène exemplifies our efforts to capture the pure essence of a vineyard through the use of indigenous fermentation. This creates a focused and seamless wine, one that shows off the vineyard's mountain terroir. Fermenting the wine this way also takes 3 to 4 times longer than the conventional method of adding commercially cultured yeast. This long, slow barrel fermentation creates optimal conditions for the development of complex aromas and flavors and imparts a distinct silky texture and long finish.

**TASTING
NOTES**

Aromas of candied orange, lemon drop, dry apricot, dry fig and Mirabelle plum interact with touches of vanilla, mango, coconut and pineapple to form a multi-layered and intense bouquet. Great viscosity, richness and concentration characterize the palate. This Cuvée Indigène promises to age gracefully for at least a decade.

**WINE
INFORMATION**

Harvested: September 18 – 20, 2002
100% of cuvee made using only indigenous yeast
75% barrel fermented (French oak from selected artisan coopers)
Barrel aged 'sur lies' 11 months with weekly bâtonnage
Bottled unfinned and unfiltered January 28, 2004
Alcohol 14.5%
Production: 1439 cases 750ml bottles, 40 cases 1.5L bottles
Release Date: April 1, 2004