



*M*ountain
vineyards,
classical
winemaking,
limited
production”

BELLE CÔTE VINEYARD

*Peter Michael Estate
Eastern Sonoma County*

Planted: 1990

Chardonnay clonal selections:

See 33¹/₃%

Old Wente 33¹/₃%

Rued 33¹/₃%

Elevation: 1,800 feet

Soil: volcanic-origin rhyolite

Exposure: south-southeast



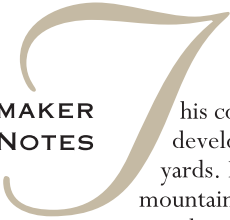
PETER MICHAEL
WINERY

2000
BELLE CÔTE

Estate Chardonnay



**WINEMAKER
NOTES**



This comes from our Belle Côte vineyard—the first vineyard developed in a series of Peter Michael estate Chardonnay vineyards. Back in 1989 we discovered the potential of this high mountain elevation site when our research revealed cool maritime breezes, rocky, well-drained soils of low fertility, and an ideal exposure to the morning sun.

We planted the vineyard in 1990 using a classical vertical trellis system and a relatively dense spacing of 1200 vines per acre. Belle Côte was planted to three clonal selections of Chardonnay. One third was planted to the “Rued” clone, one third to the famous “Old Wente” clone and one third to the “See” clone. Cuttings of the Chardonnay clones were hand selected from exceptional vineyards. Sir Peter named the vineyard Belle Côte, which means “beautiful slope”, after the famous ski run in Courcheval, France.

**TASTING
NOTES**

The 2000 Belle Côte shows off intensely exotic aromas of rose, lychee and orange peel, while offering candied pear and citrus oils in the mouth. The round and smooth palate finishes as exotic as it starts. Will age well for 4-5 years.

**WINE
INFORMATION**

Harvested: September 16-27, 2000
70% of the cuvée was fermented using native yeast
100% barrel fermented
Barrel aged sur lies for 11 months with weekly bâtonnage
Bottled without fining or filtration on January 22, 2002
Alcohol: 14.2%
Production: 1961 cases 750 ml bottles, 60 cases magnums
Release date: April 1, 2002