

Brewer - Clifton



The 1996 Vintage

1996 Brewer-Clifton Sweeney Canyon chardonnay Santa Ynez Valley

Intense, sharply focused and very complex nose of melon, golden fig, spiced apple, honeysuckle, vanilla custard and Meyer lemon. Lean in structure but creamy on the palate, it finished with a lingering finish of lemon, apple, flint and fig that coats the mouth. Full of “Chablis-like” mineral tones and a “Corton-Charlemagne” – like structures, dressed up nicely with green apple and lemon drop fruit notes and vanilla. Truly outstanding. Unfiltered. Debut Release. 120 cases produced.

Don Gillette, Napa Valley Winery Exchange

1996 Brewer-Clifton Marcella’s chardonnay Santa Maria Valley

From a block of the erstwhile Sierra Madre Vineyard now owned by Fess Parker. Extravagant nose of honey and sweet butter cream, with hints of lime and ginger. Though richer and denser, it displays equally impressive drive on the attack, as well as an explosive burst of baked apple and toffee on the finish. 50 cases produced

David Russell, Wine Cask

1996 Brewer-Clifton Gold Coast pinot noir, Santa Maria Valley

For this and the wine below, the Brewers, the Cliftons, along with sundry unindicted co-conspirators gathered ‘round the old table de tri to destem clusters by hand while sorting out those that would make the cut. This “Gold Coast” was 21 days on the skins, and was punched down five to six times a day, at least initially. When tasted, it was still on its heavy lees, and had never been SO₂’d. Smoky (only one barrel, a new Sirugue), dark red fruits, and rose petal on the nose. On the palate there’s good grip, with both tannins and acid in equilibrium; flavors leaning to hard spice, such as nutmeg and clove. 24 cases produced

David Russell, Wine Cask

1996 Brewer-Clifton Santa Maria Hills pinot noir, Santa Maria Valley

This was on the skins a few days longer, and it shows visually: i.e., slightly deeper color than the above. Black cherry, wild raspberry, and clove on the nose; oak very well absorbed (of the two barrels, one was new). Terrific inner-mouth feel, really “envelops” the palate and gives a somewhat “plusher” impression than the above. One of the most impressive young pinots I’ve had from this vineyard, and I’ve had a few. 50 cases produced

David Russell, Wine Cask