



*AVA:* Carneros  
*Composition:* 100% Chardonnay  
*Alcohol:* 13.5% by volume  
*TA:* 6.5 g/L  
*pH:* 3.43



# STARMONT

WINERY AND VINEYARDS

2017

## Carneros Chardonnay

From the time Starmont first appeared on a label in 1989, the name has been recognized for classically styled varietal wines that are expressive and approachable. Now, nearly 30 years later, led by Winemaker Jeff Crawford Starmont is producing some of their best wines ever as part of the Merryvale Family of Wines. Focused on sustainability and making the highest quality wines, the Stanly Ranch Estate Vineyard has been Napa Green Certified since 2007.

### Wine Notes

Starmont Chardonnay is crafted to enjoy with food or simply by the glass. Our aim is to retain the focus on the unique Chardonnay fruit expression of Carneros—bright citrus and apple, along with modest tropical fruit notes and spice. The 2017 is pale gold in color featuring flavors of lemon-lime and green apple, a mid-palate with medium body backed by fresh acidity and subtle notes of dried sage that show on the medium length finish. This is an exceptionally crisp and refreshing Chardonnay from Carneros that will gain complexity for three years from vintage.

### Winemaking

The fruit was handpicked, as well as state-of-the-art machine harvested, then carefully sorted at the winery. Traditional methods are used—aging sur lies for 10 months in 20% new French oak to add richness and malolactic fermentation to balance the wine's acidity. Modest use of French oak enhances the wine's expression of region, while not playing too dominant a role in the overall wine. A large portion of the blend (65%) comes from the historic Stanly Ranch with the balance sourced from vineyards throughout Carneros. A combination of barrel fermentation (70%) and stainless steel tank fermentation (30%) was used with the goal of providing a complex and interesting Chardonnay that maintains a varietal correctness and sense of place.