

SMOKING LOON



VARIETAL COMPOSITION

Unoaked Chardonnay

93% Chardonnay

7% French Colombard

APPELLATION California

VINTAGE 2014

ALCOHOL 13.5%

PH 3.59 TA 5.7 g/L

UPC 0 17444 00089 3

2014 STEELBIRD UNOAKED CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKING NOTES

Our 2014 Smoking Loon "Steelbird" Chardonnay represents the true characteristics of Chardonnay, free from the influence of oak aging. One hundred percent stainless steel aging allows vibrant aromas of tropical pineapple, honeydew melon and meyer lemon to shine through. Refreshing flavors of citrus and apple are rounded out by a steely element. A lively palate and cleansing finish make this a versatile food-pairing wine. Enjoy a glass of Steelbird with shrimp scampi, chicken Caesar salad or pasta with grilled vegetables.

APPELLATION

In crafting our 2014 Smoking Loon Steelbird Chardonnay, our winemakers sourced grapes from throughout California's prime grape growing regions. Known for its abundant sunshine which helps to ensure a reliable extended growing season, the "Golden State" has become an American winemaking mecca on par with the other great wine regions of the world. California boasts nearly 100 American Viticulture Areas (AVAs), that encompass over a half million acres of vineyards, supporting a diverse varietal mix. Cool climate varieties like Chardonnay and Pinot Noir thrive in the fog-bathed coastal areas, while the warmer inland valleys provide the perfect conditions for heartier heat loving varieties like Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah, Zinfandel and Sauvignon Blanc.

VINTAGE

With another year in the record books, the 2014 vintage came in at the third-largest grape harvest ever, down eight percent from the previous year. A mild winter and spring with drought conditions persisting, bud break occurred early. From southern to northern California winemakers have stated that it was an even earlier harvest than years before, starting with sparkling grapes in July and ending mid-October for later ripening varieties. Despite the drought, California will produce another great vintage. Arid conditions have given the grapes a chance to struggle, which thins out the vines and allows the clusters to gain concentration of flavor, intensity and complexity.

PHILOSOPHY

Smoking Loon was established in 2000 on a very simple premise: good wine doesn't need to take itself so seriously. Originally named for Don Sebastiani's love of cigars and his father August's passion for water fowl (don't ask, long story), Smoking Loon offers an irreverent, tongue-in-cheek approach to enjoying wine.

Our wines are crafted for those with an appetite for adventure, those in touch with their inner loon, those who consider pretense simply unnecessary. Each vintage provides our winemakers the perfect opportunity to have a little fun and indulge their inner loon. They start by scouring the top wine regions of the world for the finest fruit. Then, they gently guide that fruit to its fullest potential, creating fruit-forward, well-balanced wines that offer a keen blend of approachability, quality and value.