

CHARDONNAY CAYWOOD VINEYARD 2021

East side of Seneca Lake (Caywood)

Soils: Honeoye silt loam on shale

Elevation: 828ft

Aspect: west-facing

Year Planted: 1973

Harvest Date: October 14, 2021

Spontaneous fermentation in neutral barrel

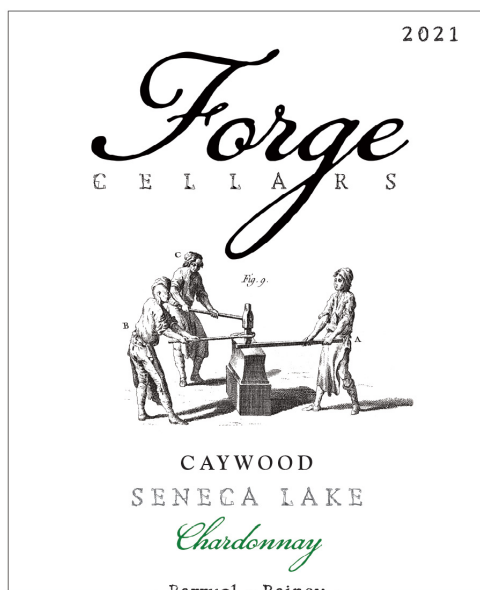
ALC: 12.3%

Production: 230 cases

TASTING NOTES

chamomile, basil, enigmatic

As humans, when we are introduced to something new, our instinct says to categorize it, or compare it to something familiar for a better understanding. With this Chardonnay, it would have been natural for us to try to typecast it, making it easier to communicate the “Forge style” to a wider audience. However, throughout the years we have become more confident in the ways in which we can discuss the wines for what they are, pure translators of Finger Lakes *terroir*. A *terroir* that deserves to be celebrated in the context of what it is and not for the ways in which it is different from other regions (or styles).



There are no stringent rules in the Finger Lakes, no government enforced historic classifications to adhere to. We don't have any personal ancestral ties to our land that should we do something out of the norm, they would roll over in their graves. These are some of the very reasons that attracted Louis and Rick to the region—the possibilities are unbounded.

Riesling will always be the heart of Forge, but with the freedom to work as we please, introducing another noble white variety to our repertoire has been exciting. The opportunity to work with some of Charles Fournier's original Chardonnay plantings was certainly fortuitous. Since the early days, we've maintained an openness to the possibility of producing a Chardonnay with the stipulation that all conditions must be perfect: site, clones, age of vines, etc. In our eleventh vintage, the stars aligned.

There is no question that our Caywood Vineyard has a sparkle to it, a standout in our lineup with *Grand Cru* distinction. With exceptional freshness vis-à-vis herbs such as thyme, basil, wild carrot, this Chardonnay has a skilled ability to translate a sense of depth from mature vines alongside impeccable lift and vibrancy.