


# Cakebread Cellars

Crafted from estate Carneros vineyards, Cakebread Reserve Chardonnay 2021 offers ripe orchard fruit, supple texture and a long, elegant finish for lovers of refined California Chardonnay.

Cakebread Cellars

92 James Suckling




## Reserve Chardonnay 2021

California, USA

### Region and Vineyards

Cakebread Cellars Reserve Chardonnay 2021 comes from Carneros, the cool southern gateway of Napa Valley, where marine influence from San Pablo Bay moderates ripening. This is one of Napa's most important zones for Chardonnay, giving wines that can be **powerful yet bright**, with fruit richness supported by freshness, acidity and mineral tension.

The wine is drawn entirely from Cakebread's four estate vineyards in Carneros. These cool-climate sites benefit from windswept, gently rolling conditions and loamy soils that naturally restrain vine growth. For this cuvée, the estate works with a dozen Chardonnay clones, adding aromatic nuance and textural complexity. The 2021 growing season began with a dry, mild winter, followed by an even spring and summer, producing a small, concentrated crop with impressive flavor density.

### Winemaking

Cakebread Cellars Reserve Chardonnay 2021 is made from **100% Chardonnay**. The grapes were harvested at night to preserve freshness, then whole-cluster pressed to capture purity and finesse. Each clonal selection was barrel fermented and aged separately, allowing the final blend to bring together different layers of fruit, texture and aromatic detail.

The wine was aged for 15 months in French oak, including 30% new French oak, 13% puncheons and 43% neutral French oak. Periodic lees stirring enhanced the wine's creamy texture, while 44% malolactic fermentation added roundness without sacrificing freshness. The result is a full-bodied, polished Chardonnay with 14.1% alcohol, ripe orchard fruit, subtle toast and a balanced, mouth-filling finish.

Alcohol :13,90 %

Composition: 100% Chardonnay

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## Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Bright medium gold with luminous straw reflections, suggesting both ripeness and freshness.
- **Aroma:** Ripe golden apple, white peach, pear and melon rise from the glass, followed by citrus peel, cream, baking spice, blanched almond and a discreet note of toasted oak.
- **Palate:** Full-bodied and smooth, with concentrated orchard fruit, peach and melon layered over pear, cream and gentle oak spice. Fresh acidity brings balance, while the long finish carries apple, citrus, almond and subtle toast.

## Did you know?

Cakebread Cellars released its first wine from the 1973 vintage, a Chardonnay made in just 157 cases. That small beginning helped establish Chardonnay as a cornerstone of the estate's identity, and the Reserve bottling remains one of its most recognizable expressions of **Napa Valley Chardonnay**.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast chicken with lemon and thyme:** The wine's creamy texture complements the roasted skin, while its citrus freshness lifts the herbs and lemon.
- **Seared scallops with brown butter:** Ripe fruit and oak spice echo the sweetness of the scallops and the nutty richness of the butter.
- **Lobster risotto:** The Chardonnay's body and lees-derived creaminess match the dish's luxurious texture, while acidity keeps the pairing lively.
- **Butternut squash ravioli with sage:** Peach, apple and baking spice notes work beautifully with the squash's sweetness and the aromatic lift of sage.

92 James Suckling

**James Suckling (JS) : 92 Points (2021)**

*Supple, vivid and citrusy with aromas of fresh lemons, blanched almonds and white peaches on the nose. Medium-bodied with moderate acidity. It has a positive bitterness on the mid-palate with blanched almond and green apple character. Succulent and refreshing.*

91

**Robert Parker (RP) : 91 Points (2021)**

*All barrel-fermented and then aged 15 months in a mix of puncheons and barrels, the 2021 Chardonnay Reserve comes entirely from estate vineyards in Carneros. Scents of vanilla, peppery spice, orange and pineapple appear on the nose, while the medium to full-bodied palate is plump, rounded and easy to enjoy, with an attractive bit of citrus on the finish to keep things lively and clean.*