

# MATTHIASSEN FAMILY VINEYARD

MATTHIASSEN is a family endeavor, the effort of Steve and Jill Klein Matthiassen, and their two young sons. Steve & Jill both have had life-long careers in sustainable agriculture, and they apply those ideals of balance, restraint, and respect for the individual—and for the whole—to their wine. Their production is simple but careful. This concept is central to the tradition of viticulture and winemaking. Respect for this tradition forms the core of their work. To that end, their hands literally touch every vine and every bottle.



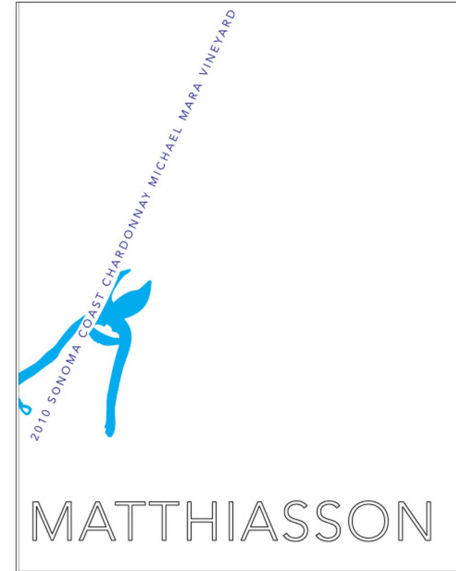
As a vineyard consultant Steve teaches and makes decisions, such as when to water and how to prune, on vineyards throughout Napa and Sonoma. Steve's current clients include Araujo Estate, Spottswoode, Chappellet, Robert Sinskey Vineyards, Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, Long Meadow Ranch, Trefethen, Limerick Lane, and others. On his own vineyards, however, Steve cares for the vines with his own hands, driving the tractor at night, and working with the crews on Sundays.

MATTHIASSEN moved to Napa in 2002. In December 2006, they took their wine plans another step forward and bought a small parcel tucked behind a subdivision just west of the city of Napa. They began replanting the property's 3 1/2 acres of vineyard to an initial lot of Ribolla Gialla - traced back to Josko Gravner's vineyard in Friuli -- Merlot, Refosco, and Cabernet Sauvignon. In 2009 MATTHIASSEN had the chance to plant a vineyard on the West slopes of the town of Sonoma. The Michael Mara vineyard is now one of the most sought after sights for Chardonnay in California. Steve also farms a few parcels in Napa for their signature blends.

MATTHIASSEN's crowning achievement is a white that combines the spirit of Bordeaux and northern Italy's Friuli region - a mix of Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Ribolla Gialla and Tocai Friulano, the latter two almost nonexistent in California. This wine has quickly become one of California's best white blends. Their Red Blend is composed of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cab Franc, and Petit Verdot. These blends have revolutionized the idea of thinking outside the single varietal and sourcing grape varietals from their most appropriate locales up and down the Valley. Steve has also redefined the term "ripeness" in California in terms of picking wine grapes. MATTHIASSEN currently picks 3-4 weeks before most of his neighbors. However, as each vintage moves on, there are more and more of farmers following the lead of Steve Matthiassen and following the trail that he is blazing through California.

T. EDWARD  
NEW YORK

## MICHAEL MARA CHARDONNAY



**Varietal/Blend:** 100 percent Chardonnay.

**Farming:** practicing organic (non-certified)

**Fermentation:** Whole-cluster pressed the grapes, settled in tank for 24 hours, 100% malolactic fermentation in two neutral barrels.

**Aging:** 18 months of barrel aging (neutral)

**Alcohol:** 14.2 %

**Soil:** variable

**Vine Age:** 10 years

**Yeast:** native

**Fined:** none

**Filtered:** light

**Production #s:** 64 cases

The Michael Mara Vineyard is west of the town of Sonoma, at the base of the Sonoma Mountain range. The soil is the result of a cataclysmic landslide that cascaded rocks and volcanic soil down onto one spot of the valley below. Surrounded by normal valley floor loam, the Michael Mara Vineyard is situated on a unique lobe of rocks and red soil.

**Country:** United States

**Region:** California

**Sub Region:** Sonoma

**Vineyard:** Michael Mara Vineyard

**Vineyard Size:**