2006 Matchbook Chardonnay

Appellation: Dunnigan Hills
Location: 35 miles N.E. of Napa County
Alcohol: 13.9%
Blend: 86% Dunnigan Hills Chardonnay
14% Russian River Valley Chardonnay
Production: 7,824 cases

Wine Description
Aromas of caramelized apples, honey and casaba melon with hints of orange flowers, cinnamon and clove. Crisp pippin apple and crème Brule flavors with slately mineral undertones. A lively entry with long lingering flavors of apple and oak spice are followed by a smooth seductive finish.

Brand Story
As a farm kid growing up in the late 1950's and early 1960's John Giguiere (Founder) was a confirmed pyromaniac starting various things on fire such as his father's wheat field. At one point, fearing total ruin from his kids burning him out of the house and farm, his father took them to the city jail for an hour stay to impress upon his brother and him the futility of their fascination with fire. John and his brother answered at a later date by graduating from random fires to the launching of rockets which often blew up at some stage of the journey resulting in more random fires and a call to the local fire department for help. They eventually grew out of this fascination with the "Matchbook" but still have fond memories of the power they possessed.

Growing Season
Late bud break with slow shoot growth through May due to endless early season rains. The temperatures soared in mid-season resulting in phenomenal vine growth during this period. Things cooled back down during veraision, allowing for plenty of hang time and full maturity. Harvest began September 8 and lasted through October 12.

Winemaking Notes
The grapes were crushed, pressed and settled on the first day, then inoculated with yeast and barreled down. After barrel fermentation, the wine allowed to age in barrels for eight months while being stirred regularly. The wine was then racked off the lees and blended. The wine was bottled on May 22, 2007. 20% of the barrels used were new French oak; 80% of the wine was aged in older French oak barrels to add weight to the mouthfeel without masking the fresh fruit flavors of the wine.

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