

**Michaud Vineyard and Winery****1998 Chardonnay, Estate  
(Chalone)**

At the price, this wine is a steal for the fact that there are no – *none*– Chardonnays from California presently on the market from the 1998 vintage. That's because there are scant few Chardonnays that are as age-worthy as Michael Michaud's. What's more, the wine is spectacular.

We at APPELLATION AMERICA were thrilled after blind-tasting a half-dozen of **Michaud Vineyard** Chardonnays currently on the market. We were excited because all the wines show a consistent thread of place, the colors are vibrant, they are elegant and restrained at the same time, and they are simply wonderful. What a revelation to taste wines that are clean and stylish all at once.

This 9-year-old white wine is showing some age. Resist the temptation, however, to allow the oxidized sherry-like aromas put you off. For my taste, it adds a patina of character and interest. Because in the end, you'll discover a wine with fresh, very much alive fruit and a wine with perfect balance. There's some honey qualities, too, not unlike aged Chablis. There are also some vanilla notes and a definitive bit of minerality from the limestone and granite soils in Michaud's 1,500-foot Chalone AVA vineyard. Additionally, the wine has another six years of good life left to it.

The wine was fermented for 10 ½ months in French barrels, a third of which was new. The pH is a very low 3.34, which tells you that the acidity is much a part of the whole. The alcohol is 14.25 percent although the grapes were picked at 23.4 Brix (measure of sugar), low by California standards. There were 1,650 cases produced.

**NOTE:** This library release wine is available as part of an exciting six vintage vertical tasting of Michaud Chardonnays (98, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04).

[>>Click here](#) to find out how to order.

Reviewed August 22, 2007 by [Alan Goldfarb](#).

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**THE WINE**

**Winery:** [Michaud Vineyard and Winery](#)

**Vineyard:** Estate

**Vintage:** 1998

**Wine:** Chardonnay

**Appellation:** [Chalone](#)

**Grape:** Chardonnay

**Price:** \$38.00

**THE REVIEWER****Alan Goldfarb**

Alan Goldfarb has been writing about and reviewing wine for 17 years. His reviews have been published in the *St. Helena Star*, *San Jose Mercury*, *San Francisco Examiner*, *Decanter*, and *Wine Enthusiast*, among others. Not once has he used a point system, star

system, or an iconic symbol to quantify a wine. What counts in Mr. Goldfarb's criteria when judging a wine is: how it tastes in the glass; is it well-constructed; its food compatibility; and presence of redeeming regional attributes.