

# NEYERS VINEYARDS

**2008 Chardonnay 'El Novillero'** – I've been especially fortunate in that my career has allowed me to experience in depth the wines of California, France, Germany and Italy. I love drinking them all – my personal cellar is 50% French, with the remainder almost equal amounts of the other three – but to my mind there's still nothing quite like a bottle of great white Burgundy. This vineyard seems to come closer to it every year. When I first visited the tiny El Novillero vineyard in the summer of 1994 with co-owner, Angelo Sangiacomo, I was accompanied by our new winemaking consultant, Helen Turley, and my old friend and soon to be partner, Ehren Jordan. Helen dropped to her knees and began to sift through the tiny pebbles in the soil between the vine rows, examined a few of them, and looked up at us and whispered, "You need to get these grapes." We did, and the relationship has been a dream for the 15 years since. El Novillero is vineyard perfection, sitting as it does in a natural amphitheater overlooking the San Francisco Bay. It enjoys cool nights, warm days, gravelly soil, moderate elevation, morning sun, and attentive vine care. Under the supervision of winemaker Tadeo Borchardt, the grapes from this extraordinary *terroir* are in the hands of an especially gifted craftsman.

