



TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION: Russian River Valley,
Sonoma County

ALCOHOL: 14.5%

PH: 3.61

TA: 5.5 g/L

AGING: 18 months in 33% new French oak

HARVEST DATE: September 30, 2023



DE LOACH
VINEYARDS

Chardonnay

RITCHIE VINEYARD

MIDDLE REACH
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
VINTAGE 2023

IN THE VINEYARD

With its beautiful old vines nestled on a rolling northwest facing hillside in the heart of the Russian River Valley, the Ritchie Vineyard commands respect. First planted in 1972, this vineyard features Sandy Goldridge soils from an ancient seabed combined with volcanic ash deposits, pockets of tufa rocks and sloping benchlands that lead into the Russian River to create a remarkably unique “Grand Cru” site that produces wines of strength and great natural acidity. Wines from this vineyard site often exhibit a rare complexity and intensity that has spawned a legion of loyal Ritchie followers.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKER

This wine showcases the distinctive expression of two Chardonnay clones working in harmony. The Musqué clone brings lifted floral aromatics and delicate sweet spice notes, while the Wente clone contributes richness, layered fruit character, and a supple texture. Careful hand harvesting, meticulous sorting, and whole-cluster basket pressing help preserve the purity of the fruit. Barrel fermentation alongside sur lie aging enhances texture and depth, creating a beautifully structured wine with the balance and complexity to evolve gracefully over time.

TASTING NOTES

Bursting with concentrated flavors of ripe pineapple, golden peach, and succulent pear, this wine delivers remarkable richness balanced by a refined, silky texture and lingering finish. The celebrated Goldridge soils lend depth and layered complexity, while delicate notes of baking spice and smooth vanilla add warmth and elegance to the palate.