



WINEMAKER'S RELEASE 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE WINE VINTAGE 2019 • SONOMA COAST • ESTATE BOTTLED

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WINEMAKING

A special place draws special people. For 40 years, Sonoma-Cutrer has brought together passionate, imaginative folks who proudly uphold a winemaking approach that marries Burgundian traditions and California ingenuity. In blazing heat, pouring rain and numbing frosts, these viticulture visionaries share ideas. Insights. Improvements. The mantra is simple: "Whatever it takes." Even in the middle of a global pandemic that philosophy was, once again, top of mind.

On a beautiful, sunny afternoon in middle of June 2020, with everyone isolated in their homes, our winemaking team past and present of Bill Bonetti (1981-1990), Terry Adams (1991-2010), Mick Schroeter (2010-Present) and Cara Morrison (2005-Present) virtually blended this very remarkable wine to mark this significant moment in our history.

OUR VINEYARDS

The magic that is consistently captured in every bottle of Sonoma-Cutrer begins in the vineyards. In selecting the fruit for this wine, the winemakers chose tightly spaced blocks from three of our Estate vineyards that allowed them to craft a quintessential wine that is the ultimate expression of the Sonoma-Cutrer style our fans have come to know and love.

Our southernmost estate vineyard, Les Pierres sits atop the gravelly clay loam of an ancient riverbed, thick with cobbled stones that infuse the grapes - and the wine - with a varied mineral essence. The rocks absorb sunlight and slowly release heat to the vines. When combined with the cool fog that tempers the warm Sonoma Valley temperature, the result is a long growing season that allows the fruit to ripen and reach full maturation. The north and south H blocks from this vineyard contributed the majority of fruit.

The Cutrer vineyard in the heart of the Russian River Valley rests on an ancient seabed that retains heat throughout the day and into the early evening, radiating that heat up to the closely spaced vines. This vineyard is multi-faceted, with microclimates throughout. The A Burgundy block has long been a favorite of our winemakers and may have best been described by Terry Adams during this blending when he said, "You can always count on The Cutrer to be big and friendly just like a Golden Retriever".

Vine Hill Vineyard, with its more than 400-ft. elevation change, allows each ridge, slope, and valley in the vineyard to contribute unique characteristics to the grapes. Combined with a variety of soils, clones and rootstocks that limit excessive vine growth, the vineyards provide a beautiful variety of elegant and balanced fruit.

ON THE WINE

Grapes were hand-harvested at night and then cooled down to preserve the fruit's fresh flavors and natural acidity. After hand-sorting, grapes were gently whole-cluster pressed to avoid bitter tannins from the skins and grape seeds. The cool, golden-green, free-run juice was then settled naturally in tanks for a few days before heading to French oak barrels for fermentation and aging. For ten months the wine was matured sur-lies in the cave-like conditions of our Grand Cru cellar in barrels that were single sourced from the Orleans Forest located in central France.

This is truly a fitting wine to celebrate our 40th anniversary! It presents beautiful aromas of ripe pear, citrus/lime zest, baked apple fruit with light mineral notes and a touch of matchstick, flintiness for complexity. Oak components of spice, caramel, nougat and pie crust are integrated throughout. Melon and Bosc pear fruit along with lemon meringue flavors mingle with hints of toasted nuts, clove, nutmeg and oak. The wine strikes a balance between being full-bodied and delicate with a creamy mouthfeel highlighting our signature citrus acidity. While this wine is drinking beautifully now, the best is yet to come, and we recommend patience allowing this wine to age.



Alcohol: 13.9% • **TA:** 5.7 gms/L • **pH:** 3.3
RS: 0.7 gms/L (dry) • **100% Chardonnay**
100% Malolactic Fermentation • 100% Oak
Oak aged for a total of 10 months - 15% New, 50% 1-year old, 35% 1-year old (100% Gauthier Orleans barrels)
Vineyard - 75% Les Pierres (H North & South), 15% Cutrer (A Burgundy), 10% Vine Hill (X Block)