



## RUSSIAN RIVER RANCHES

VINTAGE 2019 • SONOMA COAST • ESTATE BOTTLED CHARDONNAY

### OBSERVATIONS ON A NEW VINTAGE

The rains came and just kept coming. The almost double the average rainfall for the year, combined with additional late spring rains, led our harvest season to kick off with a late and slow start. Throughout the summer, we saw no weather extremes - just superb California weather that set the stage for a great year.

On September 3rd, a week behind normal, harvest began with our southernmost estate vineyard, Les Pierres. The entire harvest remained steady throughout as did the weather. The result was one of our longest crush periods at well over six weeks. The long, even hang time for the fruit has yielded a true classic Chardonnay vintage.

### OUR ESTATE VINEYARDS

Russian River Ranches is a cuvée of distinct vineyard lots, each contributing its own personality to the wine. The Sonoma Coast appellation features diverse soil types and growing conditions perfect for producing exceptional Chardonnay. Russian River Ranches is made from select lots representing the finest vineyards this appellation has to offer. For this vintage, the blend contains fruit from our six estate vineyards & a small group of carefully selected growers. The cool afternoon Pacific breezes, fog & diurnal temperature variations dramatically affect all of these sites.

### ON THE WINE

Grapes were hand-harvested starting in the early mornings and then cooled down to preserve the fruit's fresh flavors and natural acidity. After hand-sorting, the grapes were 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 and stainless steel for fermentation. The wine was then aged sur-lies in French oak barrels that were a mixture of new and one-year-old through neutral oak.

In the glass, the wine showcases a beautiful soft straw color with hints of pale green tinges. This vintage, once again, showcases the exceptional consistency of flavor and classic style of Sonoma-Cutrer that Russian River Ranches fans have come to expect. Fruit forward aromas rich with citrus, lime zest, white peach and Honeycrisp apple mingle with delicate notes of hazelnut, roasted nuts and oak spice. Flavors of crisp, zesty lemon, and barrel spice with just a touch of minerality fill your mouth with the first sip. The wine is refreshing with a beautifully focused, creamy mouthfeel that has bright acidity balance and a long, juicy finish. Ready to drink now.

Alcohol 13.8% • TA: 5.80 g/L • pH: 3.40 • RS: 2.20 g/L (dry) • 100% Chardonnay  
100% Malolactic • Fermentation - 85% Oak, 15% Tank  
Oak aged for a total of 9 months - 16% New, 19% 1 yr., 65% 2 yr - neutral  
Vineyard Breakdown - Vine Hill 15%, Les Pierres 13%, Shiloh 10%, Kent 5%, Cutrer 4%, Owsley 3%, Other 50%



**SONOMA-CUTRER®**

Please enjoy our wines responsibly.

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