FLANAGAN

2019 CHARDONNAY *Ritchie Vineyard*

APPELLATION Russian River Valley

HARVEST DATE September 4, 2019

pH   3.45

TA   5.98

ABV   13.8%

BARREL REGIMEN Aged in barrels from Francois Frere cooperage with 50% new barrels

CASES PRODUCED 46

RELEASE DATE March 2021

VINEYARD

The spring of 2019 was an exceptionally wet one with 20 days of rain in just the month of May. This helped limit fruit set and meant that the 2019 crop was much smaller than the massive 2018 Harvest. After the very rainy spring things settled down, and the rest of the growing season was ideal. The lack of late season rains or heat spikes meant that we were able to harvest without any drama. The fruit quality in 2019 was excellent.

Ritchie Vineyard sits in the corner of Wohler Road and Eastside Road and is quite close to the Russian River. The vineyard sits on an old volcanic cinder cone and has soils that are very fine ash. The relatively warm site produces a richer fruit profile and the volcanic soils provide a compelling minerality distinctive to the site. The cool nights ensure a bright acid profile that is a great underpinning to the wine.

TASTING NOTES

The 2019 Ritchie Chardonnay has a very expressive nose of Jasmine, Limestone, and Honeysuckle. The palate is rich but with good acidity and tension. Notes of Fresh Honeydew Melon, Lemon Curd, and Toasted Brioche combine to create beautiful, complex Chardonnay. The oak is nicely integrated and the minerality provides a lovely lift.

Ritchie has the broadest fruit profile of all our Chardonnays and benefits most from aging in a higher percentage of new and once used barrels. We believe in letting each site express itself and that means that each of our wines has a unique barrel program and a wine chemistry that reflects that particular site in a given vintage. Of all our Chardonnays Ritchie is the one that is most typical of a top Russian River Chardonnay.

This is terrific wine from one of Sonoma County's top sites for Chardonnay and will age beautifully for years.