



FLANAGAN

2021 CHARDONNAY *Ritchie Vineyard*

APPELLATION Russian River Valley

HARVEST DATE August 25th, 2021

pH 3.34

TA 6.61

ABV 13.5%

BARREL REGIMEN Aged in new HT Francois Frere and LT Atelier barrels

CASES PRODUCED 114

RELEASE DATE March 2023

VINEYARD

The spring of 2021 was an extremely dry. There was very little rain that winter and we moved back into serious drought conditions by early spring. On 4/19/2021 the water from Lake Mendocino was shut off at our Redwood Valley Grape Ranch. No water at all was made available for Agriculture. The lack of soil moisture led to weaker shoot growth and very poor fruit set. Coastal sites with more fog and general ambient moisture did better. Inland vineyards were the most affected. Overall the crop in Sonoma County was about 15% below normal. Coming on the heels of the total disaster of 2020 (which had two major fires in the middle of the growing season) this left wineries scrambling to find fruit. The 2021 vintage is excellent but small.

Ritchie is a very famous Sonoma County vineyard located on East Side Road in the heart of the Russian River Valley. It is a relatively warm site and generally produces a richer style of Chardonnay. Our intention with our Chardonnay is to make it in a clean, balanced style that reflects both the site and the vintage. That means harvesting it correctly so that we retain the brightness in the wine, and, making judicious use of new French oak. Our Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay exemplifies our commitment to balance. The 2021 vintage in particular has great acidity and a tremendous elegance

TASTING NOTES

The nose displays Apricot Blossom, Jasmine, and Almond Blossom. On the palate there are notes of Apricot, almond wood, and ripe Meyer Lemon. The moderate amount of new French oak is beautifully integrated in this elegant wine.

The Russian River Valley is among the top regions in the world to grow Chardonnay and Ritchie is a grand cru quality vineyard site. The 2021 Ritchie is one of the top wines we have produced from this renowned site.

