



2013 *Estero*
Russian River Valley
Chardonnay

AROMA

mirabelle, cheese cloth, sesame seed

FLAVOR

lemon tart, crushed stone, miso

FOOD PAIRINGS

scallop crudo, miso-glazed cod, chicken tagine

VINIFICATION

20.1 tons were hand-harvested on Sept. 10, 11, 13, & 22. Intensive sorting performed. Berries were "broken" before being pressed. Fermented on lees for 9-mos.(no battonage) in larger format neutral oak casks. Settled in stainless steel for 1-month. A slow malolactic fermentation completed. Cross-flow filtered prior to bottling.

SITE

A selection of premier RRV vineyards compose this wine including Butch Cameron, Oak Meadow, Teac Mor, Woolsey, & Goldridge. All sites situated 8-10 miles from the coast in gravelly loam & sandstone soils known as Goldridge. Clonal material based on Old Wente & Clone 4. This growing region distinguished by its proximity to the cold Pacific Ocean & its complex relationship to the Russian River.

NOTES

The primary influence on the wines from the Russian River Valley is of course the river itself and all of its tributaries, lagoons, and estuaries. These waters dictate every aspect of the proximate vineyards including soil, ambient temperature, water-table, root-stock, clone selection, and farming protocols. Our 2013 Russian River Valley Chardonnay, labeled "Estero" (Spanish for estuary), is the result of a strident selection process in both the vineyard and the cellar. We identify choice rows or blocks in our contracted RRV sites (those with the oldest vines, preferred clones, and/or unique aspect) and designate them to this special blend. Then, the following summer, we carefully taste through every barrel in the cellar and earmark the most expressive ones for Estero.

NOTE: Early in the year, we made a tremendous vineyard acquisition: a 10 acre parcel of dry-farmed Wente chardonnay planted in 1968 by 4th generation Sonoma farmer Butch Cameron. This remarkable site has the stuffing to make a vineyard-designate wine, but in 2013 all of it went to Estero.

DETAILS

Vineyard: Oak Meadow Ranch, Teac Mor, Woolsey, Goldridge and Butch Cameron
Appellation: Russian River Valley
County: Sonoma
Winemaker: John Raytek
Production: 1400 cases
Anticipated maturity: 2017-2020+
pH: 3.4
Brix: 21.2

Total acidity: 6.6 g/l
Residual sugar: 0.7 g/l
Alcohol: 12.5
Yield: 3t/acre
Clones: Old Wente, Clone 4, 93
Harvest dates: OMR CH 9/10, TM CH 9/13, WOOL 8/30, GOLD 9/11, BC 9/22
Bottling date: June 19

