
LIOCO

2021 *Estero*
Russian River Valley
Chardonnay

AROMA

lemon oil, slate, celery leaves

FLAVOR

Golden Delicious apple, ginger root, almond

FOOD PAIRINGS

gruyere omelette, miso baked cod, za'atar chicken

VINIFICATION

11.6 tons hand-harvested between Aug 26 and Sept 27. Berries were destemmed and gently crushed before going to press. All lots fermented on wild yeasts and aged separately for 10 months in 600L neutral oak puncheons, before being racked off the lees to steel for an additional 6 months. A slow malolactic fermentation completed. Cross-flow filtered prior to bottling.

SITE

This wine is made from a selection of our favorite Russian River vineyards. All sites are situated 10-15 miles from the coast, with gravelly loam + sandstone soils planted to Clone 4, Dijon 95 + 96, and Curtis clone. This growing region is distinguished by its complex relationship with the cold Pacific Ocean, omnipresent fog, ancient redwoods, + the Russian River itself.

NOTES

A second year of extreme drought in California set the table for a record-small crop and put the vines into high stress mode. The intelligent plants, struggling in soil devoid of any moisture, responded by setting very few clusters in the Spring. The clusters that made it were miniaturized, doll-house, baby clusters. Growers were not pleased. Winemakers were though. We've been making smaller quantities of the wine for several vintages now and treating it exactly like our Single Vineyard Chardonnays. The 2021 Estero showcases our three perennial RRV vineyards farmed by John Balletto--one of them neighboring the esteemed Littorai estate on Burnside Road. It was given a "pedigree-bump" and received a few barrels of Casa Seca Vineyard--which is our \$68 vineyard designate farmed by the Dehlinger family next door to Kistler. We aged the wine in our best neutral puncheon barrels, and gave it 5 additional months in stainless steel barrels before bottling (unfiltered). The result? A deeply concentrated, mineral-driven version of Estero that is sure to shake things up in the rather mainstream "RRV Chardonnay category." This wine reminds of us of some of favorites from St. Aubin (Burgundy) with its lemon oil, crushed stone, white flower explosion.

DETAILS

Vineyard: Burnside, Occidental,
Piner, Casa Seca
Appellation: Russian River Valley
County: Sonoma
Winemaker: Drew Huffine
Production: 338 cases
Anticipated maturity: 2024-2030

pH: 3.3
Brix: 21.6
Total acidity: 6.8 g/l
Residual sugar: 0.2 g/l
Alcohol: 12.8%
Yield: 1-4 T/acre
Clones: Wente Curtis, 95, 4
Harvest dates: 8/26-9/27
Bottling date: 2/14/2023

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