

GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

2022 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay Russian River Valley

VINEYARDS & VINTAGE NOTES

Ritchie Vineyard is legendary in Russian River Valley, widely regarded as one of the best Chardonnay sites in all of California. The vineyard was first planted in 1972 to a handful of heritage selections, including Old Wente, and sits on a rolling northwest facing hillside in the heart of Russian River Valley, near the intersection of Trenton-Healdsburg and Eastside roads. The unique soil profile, comprised of Goldridge series sandy loam and a layer of volcanic ash deposits, creates wines with great intensity, which exude a rare purity and sense of place. For more than forty years, Kent Ritchie has farmed this vineyard with passion, precision, and a loving touch. He pays personal attention to the wishes of each winemaker working with his grapes because, like the best growers in the area, he understands that the relationship is as important as the quality of the finished product that bears his name. 2022 can best be described as “early”. It began with a cold, dry winter that led to early bud break. Serious frost in April and an unexpected hailstorm in May caused damage to new growth and flowers, impacting yields. Hot Summer temperatures led to an early onset of harvest, with harvest ending on September 9th, the earliest in our winery history. Despite the rapid pace, flavors and tannin were concentrated and acidity was vibrant, creating wines that rival those of the beautiful 2021 vintage.

WINEMAKING NOTES

The grapes were hand-harvested, then carefully sorted and whole-cluster pressed using a gentle press program. After pressing, the juice was allowed to cold-settle overnight before inoculating with Montrachet yeast, then transferring to 35% new and 65% one to three-year-old neutral 500-L French Oak Puncheons for fermentation and aging. After 10 months of aging, each barrel was carefully evaluated, and the most elegantly structured wines were selected for this beautiful single vineyard wine.

TASTING NOTES

A platter of sliced golden apples and white peaches with a smattering of lime zest shines brightly on the nose of this chardonnay from the renowned Ritchie Vineyard. The silky texture of the palate carries hints of nectarine, white flowers, and citrus pith, while the mineral-laden acidity accentuates these nuances into the crisp finish.



APELLATION
Russian River Valley

COMPOSITION
100% Chardonnay

FERMENTATION & AGING
10 months, 35% new
French oak

ALCOHOL
13.8%

PH / T.A.
3.5 / 6.10 gm/L

PRODUCTION
97 cases

BOTTLING DATE
July 2023

RELEASE DATE
Summer 2025

RETAIL PRICE
\$80.00



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