



# GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

## 2019 WESTSIDE FARMS CHARDONNAY RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

### Vineyard

Just four miles up Westside Road from our winery, the 40-acre Westside Farms vineyard sits along the banks of the winding Russian River. The Chardonnay grown here is a particular favorite of ours. The vines were planted in 1989 to Chardonnay Clone 4. With deep, river-deposited sandy loam soils, the cool evenings prolong the ripening process, yielding consistently elegant, intense fruit.

### Vintage

After record-breaking rainfall in late February, causing major flooding in the areas surrounding the Russian River, a relatively cool spring followed, delaying bud break into mid to late March. The delayed onset and cool temperatures would predict the beginning of harvest at a more typical date, compared to a few past vintages. The month of May brought more heavy rains. Thankfully, the cold temperatures and delayed start of bud break meant that bloom was later as well, and only a few vineyards had started to produce flowers, so damage to the crop was minimal. Summer temperatures were perfect and mild. By June, growers began to see that a big crop was forming. Come July, veraison was under way and growers had to drop lots of unevenly ripening clusters on several occasions. Despite the quantity of clusters per vine, flavor, concentration and tannin levels were quite excellent. Canopy management was extremely important in that fruit thinning was necessary at multiple stages of vine development.

### Winemaking

The grapes were harvested at ~23° Brix in the cool morning hours to preserve freshness and fruit integrity, then hand sorted and whole cluster pressed using a gentle, modified Champagne press program tailored specifically to the qualities of the fruit. After pressing, the juice was chilled to 45°F in tank, and allowed to settle for 24 hours before inoculating with Montrachet yeast. The resulting juice was left in tank to cold-settle overnight before transferring to 30% new and 70% one to three-year-old neutral French Oak Barrels (light toast Ana Selection & Cavin) and a 500-litre French Oak Puncheon (light toast Dargaud Jaegle) for fermentation and aging, where it remained for 9 months on its primary lees until it was time to bottle in June. The wines were racked off the primary lees only once, just before bottling.

### Tasting Notes

Expressive and bold, the 2019 Westside Farms Chardonnay abounds with aromas of crème brûlée, vanilla custard, and toasted hazelnuts. Delightfully unctuous in composition, elements of freshly baked apple tart and shredded coconut entice the senses. Layers of beeswax and lemon balm provide a soft, yet lingering finish.

#### Appellation

Russian River Valley

#### Vineyards

Westside Farms Vineyard

#### Composition

100% Chardonnay

#### Fermentation & Aging

9 months in 30% new  
French oak

#### Alcohol

14.1%

#### pH / T.A.

3.22/ 6.90 gm/L

#### Production

394 Cases

#### Bottling Date

June 11, 2020

#### Release Date

September 2022

#### Retail Price

\$55