

GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

2021 ROCHIOLI VINEYARD CHARDONNAY RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

Vineyards

Rochioli Vineyard was originally purchased in 1938 by Joe Rochioli, Sr. The vision of growing Pinot Noir and Chardonnay along these fertile, gravelly soils was carried out by Joe Jr. after his father's passing in 1966. Most of the Chardonnay blocks are located at the far eastern edge of the estate, just off the meandering Russian River, where the vines literally soak up the remarkable terroir of the estate. The majority of this blend comes from the River Block clone 5, planted in 1989. The balance comes from the Mid-40s Block, a field selection planted in 1993, and Allen Block 1, clone 15, planted in 1995. The partnership between Gary Farrell Winery and the Rochioli Vineyard began more than 30 years ago with a simple handshake and has become a fundamental part of our story here in the Russian River Valley.

Vintage

2021 was a spectacular vintage, especially considering the challenges of the past few years. It was a drought year, so Mother Nature was responsible for trimming yields and producing a plentiful and beautifully balanced crop. This was a nice contrast to previous drought years when the crop was very small, and the wines were more muscular. In 2021, the clusters were medium in size and the berries were plump with a good number of seeds, excellent skin to juice ratio and beautiful acidity. The summer months gave us beautiful ripening weather with very few heat spikes, allowing the grapes to ripen evenly, while having time to develop lots of flavor. Veraison began in mid to late July, and the weather until harvest was perfectly moderate, yielding excellent hang time and world-class wines.

Winemaking

The grapes were harvested at ~23° Brix in the cool morning hours to preserve freshness and fruit integrity, then whole cluster pressed using a modified Champagne program to gently press the grapes yielding beautiful, fluffy lees. After pressing, the juice was chilled to 45°F in the tank and allowed to settle for 24 hours before inoculating with Montrachet yeast. The wine was then transferred to 35% new French oak barrels and Puncheons (François Frères, DAMY, Dargaud & Jaegle), with just the right amount of light, fluffy, creamy lees for a healthy fermentation. Each barrel was carefully evaluated after ten months of aging, and the most elegantly structured wines were selected for this beautiful single vineyard wine.

Tasting Notes

Vibrant, zesty aromas of ripe peach, orange blossom, dandelion & galangal tempt the palate, with undertones of cedar box adding complexity and depth. Vivacious and power-packed with flavors of Asian pear, kumquat, lemon basil and fresh apricot. Intensely textured, with a long, tingly finish of succulent acidity and flint-like minerality. A gorgeous and exceptionally age-worthy wine from an iconic vineyard.

Appellation

Russian River Valley

Composition

100% Chardonnay

Fermentation & Aging

10 months in 35% new
French oak

Alcohol

13.7%

pH / T.A.

3.21 / 7.7 gm/L

Production

487 Cases

Bottling Date

July 18, 2022

Release Date

February 2024

Retail Price

\$75