

GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

2021 WESTSIDE FARMS CHARDONNAY RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

Vineyards

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

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 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 35% new and 70% one- to three-year-old neutral French Oak Barrels (light toast Ana Selection & Francois Freres) and a 500-litre French Oak Puncheon (light toast Dargaud Jaegle) for fermentation and aging, where it remained for 10 months on its primary lees until it was time to bottle in July. The wines were racked off the primary lees only once, just before bottling.

Tasting Notes

Inviting notes of preserved lemon, honeysuckle, and jasmine reveal themselves at first swirl. A lush compilation of peach preserves, vanilla, hazelnuts, and toasted brioche add further layers to the complex aromas. The palate is round and full, but perfectly balanced with a refreshing lift of bright, natural acidity.

Appellation

Russian River Valley

Vineyards

Westside Farms

Composition

100% Chardonnay

Fermentation & Aging

10 months in 35% new French oak

Alcohol

13.8%

pH / T.A.

3.24 / 8.1 gm/L

Production

326 Cases

Bottling Date

July 19, 2022

Release Date

May 2024

Retail Price

\$65