



2014 Chardonnay Dutton Ranch Russian River Valley



ORIGIN: The Dutton family has been growing grapes in Sonoma County—specifically the Russian River Valley—for generations. Because their knowledge of the land and their meticulous farming results in exceptional consistency and quality year after year, their grapes are always highly prized. The fruit for this Chardonnay came exclusively from vineyards farmed by the Dutton family in the heart of the Russian River Valley, where the marine influence produces an intense fog layer that regularly covers the area, creating a unique microclimate that is ideal for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

VINEYARD NOTES: For this wine, we selected grapes from three specific sites that exquisitely showed the Russian River Valley Chardonnay traits we love. All three benefit from clockwork fog that often lasts until late in the day, as well as the fertile Goldridge soils that make the Russian River Valley famous. These ancient seabed soils produce lush and healthy vines and canopies, which when pruned to achieve a balanced crop load, excel in the cool climate they grow in. The three vineyard sites used to compose this wine are Braughton on Vine Hill Road, Hansen Hill located at the Dutton Ranch in Graton, and Jewell Ranch, an old apple farm also located in Graton. Grapes were harvested on September 9th, September 5th, and October 1st of 2014.

WINEMAKING NOTES: In order to maximize quality, all grapes went direct to press as whole clusters. After pressing and settling, the juice was racked into French oak barrels for fermentation. Once dry and finished with malo-lactic fermentation, the lots were aged in barrel for 10 months on the lees, with occasional stirring to increase richness and body. This wine was aged in French oak barrels, 35% of which were new. This wine was bottled on August 8th, of 2015.

TASTING NOTES: The aromas are dominated by alluring layers of tropical fruit, accompanied by notes of pear and peach. In addition, hints of apple pie add to the appealing complexity of this Chardonnay. On the palate, delicious flavors reminiscent of pineapple are accentuated by a supple texture, with lively acidity assuring a long bottle life.

This vintage produced 17 barrels, 399 (750 ml) cases