



## 2014 Chardonnay The Key



**ORIGIN:** In 2014, after more than a quarter century of making wine, we crafted our first Tête de Cuvée Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. We called these wines The Loch and The Key, both as a nod to our founder Steve MacRostie's Scottish heritage, and to his early experiences as a cryptographer deciphering codes in Europe for the U.S. Army. Combining decades of winemaking mastery, with our rich history on the Sonoma Coast, The Loch and The Key are consummate blends, artfully crafted from our best blocks and barrels of wine from the very finest vineyards we partner with. Like a secret code unlocked by our winemakers, The Key embodies both the vintage, and everything we know about making great Chardonnay.

**VINEYARD NOTES:** The 2014 vintage was a classic Sonoma County year. Moderate temperatures, and weather conditions without rain or frost, developed the fruit slowly and evenly. Here at MacRostie, we pride ourselves on working with growers who know the land intimately. Vintage after vintage, the partnerships we have with our growers provide us with beautiful fruit. This artful blend was made from our very finest blocks and barrels of Pinot Noir from a handful of vineyards that span the Sonoma Coast. From Carneros to the Petaluma Wind Gap, Russian River Valley and the Far Coast, the fruit for our debut vintage of The Loch was harvested from September through October of 2014.

**WINEMAKING NOTES:** The grapes went directly to press as whole clusters where they were gently pressed in order to maximize quality. This provides a distinct mouthfeel texture. After settling, the juice was racked into French oak barrels for fermentation. This wine spent its entire life in barrel where it completed primary and secondary malo-lactic fermentations. After 10 months of aging the wine was blended and put into two, one-year-old barrels where it was aged for another six months. In order to increase richness and body, it was occasionally stirred. Finally deemed aged to perfection and ready for bottle, it was bottled June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**TASTING NOTES:** Not only has extended aging in the finest French oak given this wine an appealing golden color, it has imparted a lovely hint of perfumed oak that mingles with inviting aromas of lemon citrus. The vibrant citrus notes are echoed on the palate, where a supple creamy quality provides richness and definition. The finish is bright, focused and refreshing.

This vintage produced 2 Barrels, 45 (750 ml) cases