

GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

2013 WESTSIDE FARMS CHARDONNAY RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

VINEYARDS

Just four miles up Westside Road from our winery, grower David Ramey produces truly amazing Chardonnay on his 40-acre Westside Farms vineyard that 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, and we work closely with the vineyard management team on viticultural decisions throughout the growing season. With deep, river-deposited sandy loam soils, the cool evenings prolong the ripening process, yielding consistently elegant, intense fruit.

VINTAGE

After the excellent 2012 harvest, growers couldn't have imagined that Mother Nature would bestow upon us yet another amazing and bountiful harvest full of clean and optimally ripened fruit. Moderate temperatures combined with cool nights and dry, sunny days allowed for slow, steady development of sugar, flavor and phenolics, while the acidity held on all the way through to maturity. Harvest began earlier than usual and kicked into full speed rather quickly as Chardonnay and Pinot Noir were ready at the same time. We scrambled to harvest as much Chardonnay as possible and then steadily began bringing in the red varieties that seemed to maintain excellent concentration, color and acidity.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were harvested at 22-23° Brix in the cool morning hours to preserve freshness and fruit integrity, then whole cluster pressed using a gentle press program tailored specifically to the qualities of each vineyard. After pressing, the juice was chilled to 45°F in tank, and allowed to settle for 24 hours before inoculating with yeast. The wine was then transferred to 40% new French oak barrels (François Frères, DAMY, Dargaud & Jaegle, Chassin, Rousseau, Cavin and Remond), with just the right amount of light, fluffy, creamy lees for a healthy fermentation. After an 8-month aging period, each barrel was carefully evaluated and the most elegantly structured wines were selected for this beautiful single vineyard wine.

TASTING NOTES

This is a complex, aromatically rich wine that offers hints of baked apple, Meyer lemon, lime blossom and white peach, followed by a dense palate of honeysuckle, golden apricot, tangerine zest and white ginger. The decadent flavors are beautifully balanced by the completely natural, tangy acidity and accentuated by the delicate oak treatment. Aging in oak puncheons and light toast barrels works perfectly with this wine as it contributes to the wine's structure and spice profile without masking the fresh, crisp, vibrant aromas and flavors.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

APPELLATION

Russian River Valley

VINEYARDS

Westside Farms

COMPOSITION

100% Chardonnay

AGING

8 months in 40% new French oak

ALCOHOL

13.6%

pH / T.A.

3.43/6.8gm/L

PRODUCTION

747 Cases

BOTTLING DATE

June 13, 2014

RELEASE DATE

February 2016

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE

\$50