

# 2013 Allen Vineyard Chardonnay

#### WINEMAKER COMMENTS

Golden apple and creamy vanilla notes lead on the nose and then meld into scents of mandarin orange peel. While very rich throughout the palate, the refreshing acidity seems to stay focused and lithe. Flavors of yellow apple and Comice pear are complemented by hints of allspice. The essence of crushed rock is captured in the finish and is a wonderful conclusion to this Russian River Valley classic.

## THE VINEYARD

The Allen Vineyard surrounds our winemaking facility. This Russian River Valley hillside vineyard was planted in the early 1970s, and produces low yields of exceptional quality.

#### HARVEST 2013

With great back-to-back vintages, 2013 was every bit as good as 2012 has proven to be. Amidst concerns about another drought year, the rain gauges filled up to about 80% of the yearly average. The growing conditions were very favorable, which resulted in a remarkably similar growing season to the exceptional 2012 vintage. The only notable difference, however, was the increase of heat units in 2013, as measured by the Growing Degree Day index. With below average rainfall for the season bud break initiated earlier than average along Westside Road. April showers helped to drive good shoot growth and set the plants up for May flowering. Excellent weather at flowering time allowed for fantastic set and a bountiful yield across all appellations and varieties. Even with an earlier start to the growing season, the grapes had the ideal amount of time on the vine to achieve full maturity without any threat of inclement weather late in the season. Wines from the 2013 vintage exhibit extremely pure and polished tannins and the acidity will provide longevity, but the supple structure also offers earlier enjoyment.

## **TECHNICAL NOTES**

Barrel Description: 25% new, 25% 1 yr., 25% 2yr., 25% 3 yr.+ older

Barrel Aged: 17 months

pH: 3.2

TA: 0.68g/100mL

Alc: 14.4%

Released Fall 2015

\$58

