

Paul Hobbs

2004 Chardonnay Walker Station Vineyard Russian River Valley

Vineyard

- ◆ Owner/Mgr: Michael and Kerry Riel
- ◆ Appellation: Russian River Valley/Green Valley
- ◆ Clone: Old Wente, small cluster selection
- ◆ Age: 32 years
- ◆ Site: Southwestern exposure, Blucher gravelly clay Loam soil
- ◆ Yield: Less than 1 ton/acre

Harvest

- ◆ Harvest Dates: October 8, 2004
- ◆ Harvest Brix: 25.0°
- ◆ Growing Season: The growing season began with warm dry weather in spring resulting in early bud break. A long summer of even temperatures had a moderating effect, lowering yields and developing complexity in the fruit. A week of heat in late summer resulted in an early harvest and lush, concentrated wines.

Winemaking

- ◆ Hand-harvested grapes
- ◆ Whole cluster, direct to press, cold
- ◆ Barrel fermented with indigenous yeasts; 2 months to completion
- ◆ Concurrent, spontaneous malolactic fermentation in barrels; 2 to 3 months to completion
- ◆ Aged 15 months in Seguin Moreau and Alain Fouquet French oak barrels; 80% new
- ◆ Aged sur lies and stirred monthly
- ◆ Unblended, unfinned and unfiltered; Bottled January 2006

Notes

- ◆ The tiny bit of wine we make from this vineyard (41 cases this vintage) exemplifies the elegance and nuance possible in a Russian River Valley Chardonnay. On the nose, this opalescent, bright straw-yellow beauty excites the senses with its signature aromas of citrus, orange blossom and minerals. The palate reveals seamlessly integrated and intriguing layers of flavor; apple, lemon custard, yeasty bread, almond and honeysuckle. Crisp minerality and citrus sing through the long finish. Alcohol 14.8%