

PAUL HOBBS

2011 CHARDONNAY RITCHIE VINEYARD RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

VINEYARD

- Owner/Mgr: Kent Ritchie
- Appellation: Russian River Valley
- Clonal Selection: Wente, See
- Planted: 1971
- Site: Gentle slope, southwestern exposure; shallow mixture of volcanic pumice and Goldridge soils mixed with small pebbles
- Yield: 2.7 tons/acre

HARVEST

- Harvest Date: September 30
- Harvest Brix: 23.9°
- Growing Season: 2011 began with a wet winter and spring across Sonoma and Napa Counties. Summer was warm, and as harvest approached temperatures rose. Our chardonnay ripened fully and evenly, allowing sugars and acid to develop in balance. The wines from 2011 are bright, expressive and faceted.

WINEMAKING

- Hand-harvested grapes
- Whole cluster, direct to press, cold
- Barrel-fermented with indigenous yeasts; 5 months to completion
- Concurrent spontaneous malolactic fermentation in barrels
- Aged 11 months in French oak barrels; 56% new
- Aged *sur lies*; biweekly *bâtonnage*
- Unfined and unfiltered; bottled January 2013

NOTES

- From the legendary old vines of Ritchie Vineyard we produce a dynamic chardonnay with great concentration, finesse and vibrant acidity. The opalescent straw hued wine exhibits an exotic nose of stone fruit and spices accented with tropical notes of guava and papaya. A firmly structured, steely palate provides the backbone around which layers of pear and toasted brioche wrap themselves. Hints of butter and sweet spices persist over a creamy finish. Alcohol 14.4%