

PAUL HOBBS

2014 CHARDONNAY ULISES VALDEZ VINEYARD RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

VINEYARD

- Owner: Ulises Valdez
- Clonal Selection: Wente
- Rootstock: 420a
- Plant Date: 2002
- Soils: Sandy-loam, Goldridge soil
- Exposure: Southeast
- Trellis: Bilateral cordon
- Yield: 4.2 tons/acre

GROWING SEASON

- Summary: 2014 was the third straight outstanding growing season in a row, following the excellent 2012 and 2013 vintages. Dry winter and spring conditions limited canopy vigor, and a warm growing season with a lack of extreme heat spikes resulted in prolonged, even ripening through harvest. The resulting wines possess great site specificity, depth and quality.
- Harvest Date: September 9th
- Harvest Brix: 24.0°

WINEMAKING

- Hand-harvested, picked at night
- Whole cluster pressed while still cold from the field
- Barrel-fermented, indigenous yeasts, 7 months to completion
- Spontaneous malolactic fermentation
- Aged 15 months in French oak barrels, 60% new
- Coopers: Cadus, Damy, Louis Latour, Francois Frères
- Aged *sur lies* with biweekly *bâtonnage*
- Unfined and unfiltered; bottled January 2016

NOTES

- The Ulises Valdez Vineyard, the personal estate of one of Northern California's premiere viticulturalists, always yields wines of authority and volume and 2014 is no exception. Opalescent golden straw in hue, this chardonnay's distinctive aromas of chamomile, mandarin, gun powder, juniper berry and Asian pear are the prelude to a broad, layered and integrated wine. Aged 15 months in French oak barrels, 60% new.