

PAUL HOBBS

2009 CHARDONNAY ULISES VALDEZ VINEYARD RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

VINEYARD

- Owner/Mgr: Ulises Valdez
- Appellation: Russian River Valley
- Clonal Selection: Wente
- Vine Age: Planted in 2002
- Site: Southeast exposure on gentle sloping hillside. Goldridge, well drained, brown sandy loam soils
- Yield: 2.1 tons/acre

HARVEST

- Harvest Date: September 18
- Harvest Brix: 24.2°
- Growing Season: 2009 began with an abundance of spring rain followed by mild, steady summer temperatures that set the stage for nearly ideal pinot noir and chardonnay growing conditions. The well-set fruit ripened slowly allowing for an excellent balance of sugars and acids to develop. The resulting wines can be characterized as elegant and rich with profound depth and structure.

WINEMAKING

- Hand-harvested grapes
- Whole cluster, direct to press, cold
- Barrel-fermented with indigenous yeasts; 6 months to completion
- Concurrent, spontaneous malolactic fermentation in barrels
- Aged 13 months in François Frères and Remond French oak barrels; 67% new
- Aged *sur lies*; biweekly *bâtonnage*
- Unblended, unfined and unfiltered; bottled January 2011

NOTES

- Characteristically bold, yet refined in texture and seamlessly integrated, this opalescent, pale straw chardonnay is seductively aromatic with white flowers, stone fruit and lime rind. A tautly structured palate is creamy and layered with flavors of Fuji apple, yeasty brioche, meringue and ginger. This intense weave of flavors persists over a crisp, lingering finish accented with wet stone and citrus. Alcohol 14.3%