

# PAUL HOBBS

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## 2008 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: 3.4 tons /acre

### HARVEST

- Harvest Date: September 24
- Harvest Brix: 24.5°
- Growing Season: 2008 began with an exceptionally dry spring and early bud break. Frosts in April significantly lowered cluster counts. Weather stabilized and warmed through summer, with warmer temperatures continuing through harvest. A smaller crop of high quality fruit was able to ripen fully and evenly, developing an excellent balance of sugars and acid. Overall, the 2008 wines are bright and expressive with well-articulated flavors.

### WINEMAKING

- Hand-harvested grapes
- Whole cluster, direct to press, cold
- Barrel-fermented with indigenous yeasts; 7 months to completion
- Concurrent, spontaneous malolactic fermentation in barrels
- Aged 16 months in Damy and François Frères French oak barrels; 61% new
- Aged *sur lies*; biweekly *bâtonnage*
- Unblended, unfinned and unfiltered; bottled January 2010

### NOTES

- The lively character and bright acidity of the 2008 vintage are a perfect complement to this wine's assertive personality and rich, creamy texture. Crystalline pale straw color accompanies enticing aromas of Granny Smith apple, citrus and orange blossom that carry through over a viscous, firmly-structured palate. Notes of lemon custard and white flowers add complexity, with oak playing a supporting role. Subtle impressions of nutmeg and minerals lengthen an elegant finish. Alcohol 14.5%