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Winery & Vineyards

2021 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY 'BALDOCCHI ESTATE VINEYARD' CHARDONNAY RESERVE

97 PTS / Double Gold Medal
2024 North Coast Wine Challenge, Windsor



Wine Specifications:

Vineyard:	Russian River Valley, Baldocchi
Varietal Composition:	100% Chardonnay
Harvest Date:	9/1/2021
Bottling Date:	8/24/2022
Cases Produced:	135 cases
Alcohol:	14.0%
Cooperage:	10 months in French oak barrels; 35% new
TA:	5.6 g/l
pH:	3.35
Price:	\$68

Winemaker's Comments:

Vineyard/Harvest: Our Chardonnay Reserve is crafted from our meticulously tended Baldocchi Estate Vineyard on River Road in Santa Rosa. This vineyard is dedicated to the esteemed Old Wente clones 72 and 24, which are celebrated for producing wines of remarkable complexity and intensity. These clones provide our Chardonnay with rich fruit flavors, a notable mineral quality, and a distinctive texture that adds profound depth and character to the wine. The grapes were hand-harvested at night on August 24th and September 3rd, 2022.

Winemaking: The journey of our Chardonnay began with meticulous fruit selection, ensuring only the finest grapes were used. The fruit was carefully destemmed and gently pressed before being transferred to French oak barrels. Here, a 25-day fermentation process unfolded, allowing the wine to develop its foundational characteristics. Following fermentation, the wine was aged for ten months in French oak barrels, with 30% being new oak. This careful selection of barrels imparts subtle oak influence, enhancing the wine's complexity without overpowering its natural fruit flavors. To further elevate the wine's texture and flavor profile, we employed a technique known as 'bâtonnage.' This involves stirring the lees on a bi-weekly basis, which contributes to a richer, more rounded mouthfeel and adds layers of complexity to the wine. The result is a Chardonnay that beautifully balances vibrant fruit notes with nuanced oak influences, offering a luxurious and well-rounded tasting experience.

Description: Brightly colored, our Russian River Valley 'Baldocchi Estate Vineyard' Chardonnay Reserve exudes pronounced aromas of apple and vanilla. Poached pear, ripe apricot, white peach and a hint of Crème Brûlée spill over the palate with a full-bodied and creamy texture. Lingering on the finish butterscotch, green apple, and a subtle touch of toasted oak compel you to pour another glass. It pairs perfectly with robust dishes like crispy chicken with a creamy mushroom sauce. The wine's full-bodied texture and buttery notes complement the savory flavors and creamy texture of the dish, creating a harmonious and indulgent pairing.