

LEDSON

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Winery & Vineyards

2023 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY 'BALDOCCHI VINEYARD'

AMORE MIA CHARDONNAY



Wine Specifications:

Vineyard:	Russian River Valley
Varietal Composition:	100% Chardonnay
Bottling Date:	November 26, 2024
Cases Produced:	461 cases
Alcohol:	14.2%
Cooperage:	12 months; 75% stainless steel, 25% French oak
TA:	7.6 g/l
pH:	3.16
Price:	\$32

Tasting Notes:

You are greeted on the nose by floral notes of Gardenia. Tropical fruit aromas of lychee, kiwi, and pineapple on the front palate develop into luscious white peach before finishing off with golden delicious apple and a crisp minerality.

Steve's Winemaking Comments:

Dewey and Irene Baldocchi, who emigrated from the Old World in the late 1800s, were dear friends of my father. In 1911, they planted the vineyard that now nurtures this remarkable Chardonnay. Dewey was the embodiment of a true gentleman, while his beloved wife, Irene, was a master in the kitchen a true Culinary Virtuoso. When I was young, my father and I would often visit them as my father had deep, enduring friendships with many of the old Italian families in the region.

Dewey was always eager to share his wine, and I can still vividly recall the sight of the large gallon glass jug he would pull from beneath the old wooden bench, passing it around with warmth and generosity. To my young eyes, the jug seemed enormous, and I struggled to lift it to take a sip.

On his ranch, Dewey raised many animals, especially pigs, from which he crafted his own cured meats, while Irene baked countless breads and pastries, much like many of the old Italians did. Dewey would often say, with a voice as deep as the earth itself, "Crescentine e Culatello, Amora Mia." The phrase Amora Mia, meaning "my love" in Italian, became a cherished phrase etched in my heart.

Dewey and Irene were the epitome of kindness, the kind of couple one could only hope to meet, let alone share a meal and wine with. Even as a young boy I truly enjoyed stopping by their place whenever Dad could spare the time. The warmth, generosity, and love they shared left an imprint on me that remains to this day.

Dewey had a special reverence for hardworking women. Upon his passing, he left a legacy, bequeathing one million dollars to Ursuline High School for girls, founding the Dewey & Irene Baldocchi Scholarship Fund.

This exquisite Chardonnay is crafted as a tribute to two extraordinary souls whose love, generosity, and spirit continue to inspire.