



CHARDONNAY
CHARLES RANCH VINEYARD • FORT ROSS - SEAVIEW
2019



2018 Vintage

95 points - Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*
94+ points – Erin Brooks, *Wine Advocate*

2017 Vintage

95 points - Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*
92 points - Erin Brooks, *Wine Advocate*

WINEMAKING DETAILS

Fermentation: 100% neutral French Oak; 100% Malolactic; on the lees with daily battonage

Oak: 50% new French Oak,
50% neutral French Oak, 10 months

Case Production: 192

VINEYARD DETAILS

Soil Type:
Josephine and Goldridge,

Rootstock:
AXR and St. George

Clones:
Wente and 04

GROWING YEAR

Heavy rainfall and floods dominated late winter and early Spring 2019. This rain pushed bud break into late March and early April. Both April and May were cool which slowed down the growth in the vines and stretched out ripening. The summer was very temperate, with a bit of heat just before harvest to help push the flavors. Overall, we were around 10 days later in all stages from bud break to harvest than in the 2018 vintage. This long growing season allowed for full and rich flavor development.

VINEYARD CHARACTER

The Charles Ranch was once one of the largest sheep ranches in Sonoma County. George Charles was a fourth-generation rancher in the rugged hills and raised 2,000 head of sheep along with a small herd of bison. George’s son-in-law, Lee Martinelli Sr., was a successful third generation grape grower and consulted with George as to which grape variety would be the most suitable to plant in this unique climate. The distinct micro-climate is two miles inland from the Pacific Coastline at Fort Ross and is ideally suited for growing Burgundian varieties. In 1980 George sold his herd and used the steep 14-acre pasture to plant Chardonnay grapes, becoming a pioneer of grape growing in an area that is now considered a prime viticultural region. The vineyard was planted in 1981, being the second vineyard planted on the far Sonoma Coast.

TASTING NOTES

Focused aromas of golden pear, honeysuckle and brioche bread you’re your nose. Refreshing minerality along with flavors of lemon curd fill out the rich palate. Vanilla and fresh pear flavors are found in the long finish