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2018
Ritchie Vineyard
Horseshoe Block
Chardonnay



Kent Ritchie's iconic Chardonnay vineyard sits along fog-laden Eastside Road in the Russian River Valley. Good drainage from the sloping property, in conjunction with the unique soil profile of Goldridge and volcanic ash deposits make for top-notch grapes that display acidity and intensity. Ritchie's Horseshoe Block was planted to Wente clone in 1970 (with an additional planting in 2004). Time has allowed the plantings to produce a lower yield of tantalizing fruit with intensity, minerality and subtle tropical fruit notes.

The grapes for this wine were picked on September 18 and sorted by hand before being cold-settled for 24 hours. The fruit was then barreled down and fermented in 100% French oak, with daily barrel stirring during primary fermentation. After an extended malolactic fermentation, the wine was then aged for an additional 11 months in barrel.

Rich, textured and lively, the 2018 Ritchie Vineyard Horseshoe Block Chardonnay showcases energizing lime with vanilla and almond undertones. A full body expresses butterscotch, peach blossom, satin texture and a lengthy finish that balances minerality and acid with a lingering finish.

APPELLATION: Russian River Valley

VARIETAL: 100% Chardonnay

CLONES: Wente

PLANTED: 1970-2004

BRIX: 24.3

SOIL: Goldridge

COOPERAGE: 40% new; François Frères, Louis Latour, Damy, Taransaud

pH: 3.4

T.A.: 7.2

ALCOHOL: 15.1%

PRODUCTION: 121 cases produced

RETAIL PRICE: \$78

CELLAR RECOMMENDATION: Enjoy beginning in 2023.