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Kent Ritchie's Eastside Road Vineyard is considered one of California's Grand Cru vineyards for Chardonnay. Good drainage from the sloping property, in conjunction with the unique soil profile of Goldridge and volcanic ash deposits make for top-notch grapes. Wente clones are utilized on 40-year old vines, producing small yields that display acidity and intensity.

The 2018 growing season began with a replenishing wet winter and the growing season was extended due to cooler temperatures throughout the spring and summer. The grapes for this wine were picked by hand and sorted by hand before being cold-settled for 24 hours. The wine was then barreled down and fermented in 100% French oak, with daily barrel stirring during primary fermentation. The wine was then aged for an additional 11 months in barrel.

An extremely bright Chardonnay that merges lemon curd, apricots and tangerine with roasted red apples and fresh vanilla bean. Golden Delicious apple continues on the juicy, rich palate, evolving into a crisper, unripe texture as acidity takes over and carries into a lingering, mouth-watering finish with a creamy back palate and promise of evolution in bottle.

APPELLATION: *Russian River Valley*

VARIETAL: *100% Chardonnay*

CLONES: *Wente*

CLIMATE: *Relatively cool, regular morning fog*

PLANTED: *40+ years old*

YIELD: *3.0 tons per acre*

SOIL: *Goldridge*

COOPERAGE: *30% new; François Frères, Louis Latour, Damy and Taransaud*

PH: *3.50*

T.A.: *6.0*

ALCOHOL: *14.4%*

PRODUCTION: *125 cases*

2018
Ritchie Vineyard
Chardonnay



CELLAR RECOMMENDATION: *Enjoy now through 2030.*