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BENOVIA™

Winery

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2008

Russian River Valley

Chardonnay

'La Pommeraié'

Harvest Notes

Spring along the Sonoma Coast was one of the coldest on record; we endured 28 days of frost protection in March and April. We also experienced a second year of drought with rainfall well below average. These two factors set the stage for early flowering, low yields (compromised by the frost) and a very early harvest. A cool and dry summer, with low mildew and rot pressure, forced us to be more aware of water stress in the vineyard and to irrigate as needed. By fall, warm temperatures and an August/September heat spike forced us to harvest some vineyards almost a month early. The resulting low yields and stressed vines produced grapes with tremendous power, color and outstanding potential.

Winegrower Notes

This spectacular vineyard sits along Laguna Ridge at the edge of the Green Valley AVA. Meticulously farmed and planted at a very high density of 2,420 vines per acre, the vineyard is planted to Dijon clone 548 and 95. Once a spectacular apple orchard we pay homage to the Martinelli Family and the history of the site by naming the wine 'La Pommeraié'—French for apple orchard.

Tasting Notes

Tropical aromas of Strawberry Papaya and ripe Pineapple are accentuated by sweet oak and mineral notes. Intense and concentrated this single vineyard Chardonnay has vibrant flavors, exceptional length and bright natural acidity. Indigenous yeast fermentation in French oak barrels and extended aging of 16 months on lees has produced a wine with exceptional complexity.

Vineyard Sources

George Martinelli,
Frei Road Vineyard

Harvest Data

September 3, 2008
Alcohol 14.5%
pH 3.25
TA 0.80

Fermentation

Whole Cluster pressed,
indigenous yeast fermentation
and weekly battonage

Cooperage

16 months in French Oak—
47% new French Oak

Bottling

February 24, 2010

Cases Produced

350 cases

Release Date

March 2010