



EST. 2005

**BENOVIA**®

*Winery*

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2009

*Russian River Valley*

*Chardonnay*

*'La Pommeraié'*

#### **Harvest Notes**

The Russian River Valley experienced its third successive drought in the winter/spring of 2009. Colder than average temperatures in the spring pushed the season back by almost three weeks at flowering and fruit set. The summer was cool and dry, with low mildew and rot pressure. Temperatures warmed in July and August, helping to create a very even veraison and setting the stage for a great vintage. The stressed vines produced below average yields, giving us grapes with rich color, vibrant acidity and exceptional balance. We are very excited about the 2009 vintage—it may be our best yet!

#### **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 paid homage to the Martinelli Family and the history of the site by naming the wine 'La Pommeraié'—French for apple orchard.

#### **Tasting Notes**

This intense and concentrated single vineyard Chardonnay begins with vivid aromas of citrus blossom, honeysuckle and white peaches. The vibrancy of the wine's aroma is matched by its opulent texture and layered flavors of candied citrus and Anjou pear, followed by a mineral laden finish. 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 4 & 8, 2009  
Alcohol 14.5%  
pH 3.31  
TA 0.79

#### **Fermentation**

Whole cluster pressed, indigenous  
yeast fermentation and weekly  
battonage

#### **Cooperage**

16 months in French Oak,  
47% new French Oak

#### **Bottling**

February 16, 2011

#### **Cases Produced**

470 cases

#### **Release Date**

March 2011