



**BENOVIA**  
WINERY

2016

**RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY CHARDONNAY**



**HARVEST NOTES**

After 4 years of drought in Sonoma County the 2016 growing season started with abundant and consistent rainfall, replenishing reservoirs and recharging soils with much needed water. Moderate spring temperatures encouraged the vines out of dormancy with an early bud break. Light but consistent rainfall and moderate temperatures in the spring provided optimal conditions for rapid shoot growth and the growing season got off to a fast and furious pace. Temperatures during bloom were nearly perfect in the Russian River Valley resulting in yields that are likely at, or near, Sonoma County's historic average. The weather through the summer continued with warm days and cool nights, with very few heat spikes.

**WINEGROWER NOTES**

The Chardonnay is now sourced principally from our Martaella Estate Vineyard. We have planted heirloom clones of Chardonnay that retain bright acidity and express beautiful floral and mineral notes. The low-fertility soils and the cool temperatures, in this part of the Russian River Valley, unite to form an ideal place for growing Chardonnay. The fruit was harvested at night and then rigorously hand sorted before whole-cluster pressing. After settling overnight, the juice was fermented in barrel with indigenous yeast.

**TASTING NOTES**

Bursting with aromas of Jonagold apple, tangerine blossom and toasted hazelnuts. The nose is filled with apricot and acacia blossom, which follow through on the palate and intertwine with bright acidity and a long-complex finish. Barrel fermentation and oak aging for 12 months have added hints of toasted almond and spice cake to a subtle minerality on the finish.

**VINEYARD SOURCES**

*Martaella Estate, Zio Tony Ranch Vineyard*

**HARVEST DATE**

*August 21st - September 3rd, 2016*

**ALCOHOL**

14.1%

**pH**

3.41

**TA**

0.63 g/100ml

**FERMENTATION**

*Whole cluster pressed and fermented with indigenous yeast*

**COOPERAGE**

*16 months in French Oak 28% new French Oak*

**BOTTLING**

*February 2018*

**CASES PRODUCED**

*219 cases*

**RELEASE DATE**

*March 2018*