

BALVERNE

CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY AND CHALK HILL

2014

Russian River Valley

Chardonnay

WINEMAKER

Margaret Davenport

APPELLATION

Russian River Valley

ALCOHOL

14.4%

pH

3.45

RESIDUAL SUGAR

0.5 g/l

BARREL AGING

7 months, 20% new oak

CASES PRODUCED

168

VINEYARD

Block 8 lies at the western end of our Estate, on a gently sloping, southwest facing knoll overlooking our Pinot Pond and the surrounding Russian River Valley. Block 8 is one of the most established blocks on the property. In 2000 clone 17 Chardonnay was planted, on 1103 rootstock, with an east-west row orientation.

The soils in Block 8 are primarily Spreckles loam, with good drainage and low water holding capacity, allowing for deep root penetration. The moderate, Mediterranean climate conditions of the region are ideal for Chardonnay cultivation. Consistent afternoon Pacific breezes blowing over the Russian River Valley are an important factor in maintaining temperatures suitable for growing quality Chardonnay.

The 2014 growing season had the earliest start in over a decade, following a mild, dry winter and spring. Despite its early start, the overall length of the growing season was similar to past years, with an average of 180 days from bud break to harvest. Warm and mild temperatures through bud break and bloom allowed for optimal fruit set, without threat of frost. A mild spring and summer followed with few extended heat surges, allowing clusters to ripen at a strong and steady pace. Steady warm and sunny summer days allowed for increased growing degree day accumulation, causing the vines to produce small and intense berries. Harvest started on August 15th.

WINEMAKING

Fruit was brought to the winery in the early morning at very low temperatures. After hand sorting, the grapes were destemmed and pressed to barrel for fermentation (100%). The must was inoculated, left *sur-lie* and allowed to complete malolactic fermentation, with multiple daily stirring in barrel. After transfer to Cadus barrels, 20% new, this wine was aged seven months.

WINE

Complex aromas of Bosc pear, toast and cream, with subtle aromas of exotic spice. On the palate, it is multi-layered and smooth textured, showing great intensity and flavors of ripe citrus, white peach and kiwi fruit. The finish is long and satisfying, with complex notes of oak, spice and great minerality.

