

2016

## ALDER SPRINGS VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

*Mendocino*



PATZ & HALL



RELEASE DATE: April 2018  
RETAIL PRICE PER 750ML: \$65.00  
CASES PRODUCED: 446  
LABEL ALCOHOL: 14.2%

### VINEYARD CHARACTER

In 2016, we selected fruit exclusively from two small blocks at the very top of Alder Springs Vineyard: Emerald Pool and East Face. At 2,600 feet in elevation, these impeccably farmed blocks on the flanks of Cahto Peak in Northern Mendocino represent some of the highest elevation Chardonnay plantings in the state. While this elevation proposes challenges, when conditions align—as they did in 2016—Alder Springs can produce a rare, terroir-inspired wine unlike any other. Our 2016 Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino Chardonnay is made from a blend of Dijon clone grapes, as well as Wente and Robert Young clone fruit.

### VINTAGE NOTES

2016 was another fantastic growing season. It started out with good winter rainfall, which after four years of drought, was a big relief. While the summer of 2016 was quite hot, a perfectly timed cool-down over a three-week period in August allowed the grapes to ripen with moderate sugar levels. It also preserved the acidity that is so essential to making great Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Thus, the quality is exceptional with vivid, alluring flavors in the Chardonnays and deep colors and gorgeous aromatics in the Pinot Noir.

### TASTING NOTES

As 2016 was a warmer year, this Chardonnay is rounder and fuller than the 2015. A full range of aromas, layered and dense, are present including the signature dried flower and candied fruit note of the vineyard. Round and flowing on the palate, this wine gains volume with each sip, displaying notes of apricot and ginger. Lovely high-mountain acidity adds poise and freshness to the alluring flavors, while the suppleness of the wine carries it to a long lingering finish. A very fine Alder Springs Chardonnay!

### WINEMAKING

- 100% Chardonnay fruit
- 100% Whole-cluster pressed
- 100% indigenous yeast fermentations
- *Sur lie* aged with weekly stirring
- 100% malo-lactic fermentation in barrel
- 100% Burgundian French oak barrels (45% new; 55% 1-2-year old)
- Bottled without filtration to preserve the wine's aromas and flavors and enhance aging potential

### THE PATZ & HALL FAMILY OF WINEGROWERS

*Stuart Bewley - Alder Springs Vineyard - Laytonville, Mendocino County*

Located on the high slopes of northern Mendocino County, Alder Springs Vineyard is owned by Stuart Bewley, who is dedicated to growing exceptional Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Situated near the town of Laytonville, the vineyard lies within 12 miles off the Pacific Ocean. Patz & Hall first harvested grapes from Alder Springs Vineyard in 1997, becoming the first winery to buy grapes from this special vineyard.

*James Hall*  
JAMES HALL | Winemaker

PATZHALL.COM