

2016

DUTTON RANCH CHARDONNAY

Russian River Valley



PATZ & HALL



RELEASE DATE: August 2018
LABEL ALCOHOL: 14.5%

VINEYARD CHARACTER

Made with some of the oldest plantings of Chardonnay in western Sonoma County, this wine is predominantly a blend of California heritage clones and selections—Hyde-Wente, Robert Young, Rued, UC Davis Clone 4 and Spring Mountain. Since some of these vines are dry farmed, they produce small but intensely concentrated berries, making for great depth of flavor and texture. Historically, Dutton Ranch yields fragrant, tropical aromatics and a crisp mineral character. Dutton Ranch is in the heart of Russian River's cool Green Valley.

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

Green apple and spicy pear aromas leap from the glass. Notes of Muscat and orange blossom waft around toasted hazelnut, clove, banana and fresh earth. Dense and mouth filling, the wine shows great acidic flow and a dynamic range of flavors. It's complex without being heavy or tedious. Tangerine, dried apricot, chai tea and crème caramel dart and weave through the long finish. The 2016 offering is broader, denser and fuller bodied than the 2015. Once again, Dutton Ranch has delivered a wonderfully age-worthy wine that captures the charm and complexity of some of Sonoma County's oldest Chardonnay vines.

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 (35% new; 65% 1-2-year old)

THE PATZ & HALL FAMILY OF WINEGROWERS

Gail, Steve and Joe Dutton - Dutton Ranch - Russian River Valley, Sonoma County

In 1969, Warren Dutton planted some of the first Chardonnay vines in western Sonoma. Sons Steve and Joe Dutton, along with their mother Gail, carry on in Warren's footsteps with what is now one of Sonoma County's most successful vineyard operations. We are able to select from eleven blocks of Chardonnay largely planted with California heirloom clones (Robert Young, Rued, Hyde-Wente and UC Davis Clone 4) for the Dutton Ranch Chardonnay bottling.

PATZHALL.COM

James Hall
JAMES HALL | Winemaker