

2016

KENT RITCHIE VINEYARD – RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY CHARDONNAY



PATZ & HALL



VINEYARD CHARACTER

With its beautiful old vines nestled on a rolling northwest-facing hillside, Kent Ritchie Vineyard has established a reputation as one of the Russian River Valley's finest winegrowing sites. Originally planted in 1972, Kent Ritchie Vineyard features classic sandy Goldridge soils on a sloping benchland that lead to the Russian River—qualities that yield complex and concentrated wines with excellent natural acidity. The grapes from this wine come from our favorite block of Wente clone Chardonnay at the top of the hill.

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

Pure and elegant, this is a classic Russian River Chardonnay. The wine opens with enticing notes of green apple, honey and toasted almond that meld with cinnamon butter cookie and peach flavors. The wine is rich and deep on the palate with mouth-watering acidity and a vibrant finish.

WINEMAKING

- 100% Chardonnay fruit
- 100% Whole-cluster pressed
- 100% indigenous yeast fermentations (wild)
- Sur lie aged with weekly stirring
- 100% malo-lactic fermentation in barrel
- 100% Burgundian French oak barrels (35% new; 65% 1-2-year old) – 10 months
- Bottled without filtration to preserve the wine's aromas and flavors and enhance aging potential

RELEASE DATE: September 2017

RETAIL PRICE PER 750 ML: \$65.00

CASES PRODUCED: 285

LABEL ALCOHOL: 14.2%

THE PATZ & HALL FAMILY OF WINEGROWERS

Kent Ritchie – Kent Ritchie Vineyard - Russian River Valley, Sonoma County

Kent Ritchie Vineyard represents a lifetime of hard work, married to an exceptional vineyard site, producing a wine of exceptional complexity and grace. First planted by renowned winegrower Kent Ritchie in 1972, and still farmed by him today, Ritchie is one of California's grand crucifer vineyards. When Kent invited us to work with one of the vineyard's most coveted blocks of Chardonnay, we were thrilled.


JAMES HALL | Winemaker

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