

2011 Allen Vineyard Chardonnay

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

I feel this may be one of the best Allen Chardonnays I have crafted since becoming the winemaker in 1998. The cool growing season really added to the complex aromas of Gravenstein apples, white nectarines, cream soda and baking spices. Those same aromas carry through on the palate along with a richness that leaves your mouth feeling clean and refreshed from the wonderful acidity. Rich and full of classic Russian River Valley flavors that are long and elaborate on the finish. Aging this wine for 3-5 years will only add to its complexity.

—Director of Winemaking Bob Cabral

THE VINEYARD

The Allen Vineyard surrounds our winemaking facility. This Russian River Valley hillside vineyard was planted in the early 1970s, and produces low yields of exceptional quality.

HARVEST 2011

The 2011 vintage was marked by another cool year that produced wines with tremendous purity and depth. Similar in many ways to 2010, without the extremes, it had very low yields and below average cooler weather. But, the growing season in 2011 was much more consistent with gentle warming days and very cold summer nights. As a consequence, the vintage produced wines with incredible purity, remarkable acid and tannin balance, while expressing the uniqueness of each individual site and region. The signature of this vintage is one where the wines have bright fruit qualities, sound acidities and elegant tannin profiles. It is truly a vintage worth seeking.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Barrel Description: 31% new oak, 15% 1 year, 15% 2 years, 39% 3+ years

Barrel Aged: 17 months

pH: 3.32

TA: 0.64g/100mL

Alc: 14.4%

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\$55

