

WILLIAMS SELYEM



2020 Williams Selyem Estate Vineyard Chardonnay

WINEMAKER NOTES

Orchard fruits, jasmine flowers, and musk melon combine to form a medley of aromas in the glass. The layered and complex bouquet makes it difficult to point out any singular fruit characteristic due to the mixture of clones interplanted in our Williams Selyem Estate Vineyard, which are harvested all at once. On the palate the wine is as equally layered as it is on the nose, with orchard fruits and melon flavors dominating the profile. The soft acidity is overshadowed by a mouth-coating texture that saturates and clings to the palate throughout the finish.

THE VINEYARD

Our Williams Selyem Estate Vineyard is nestled in the heart of the Russian River Valley on Westside Road just below the winery and adjacent to the Russian River. The vineyard is planted to 20 different clones of Chardonnay and shares a similar soil profile to the Allen Vineyard and Rochioli Riverblock.

HARVEST 2020

The 2020 growing season started out very dry and bud break was delayed. Early spring rains recharged the soil profile, but periods of extreme cold caused many frost events throughout the Russian River Valley. Late spring yielded ample sunshine and moderate temperatures, and the plants responded very well with excellent canopy growth. The season ended up approximately 12% warmer than average and did not have any heat spikes until August. Harvest started in haste on August 12, ahead of an extreme heat wave. On the night of August 17, the weather changed and there was a rare dry lightning storm that sparked a fire on a hillside in remote west Sonoma County; later named the Walbridge Fire. In the Russian River Valley, it took a number of days for smoke to settle. Based on test result for smoke taint on the grapes, several coastal vineyards were not picked. For the vineyards which were picked, either before the fire or before the smoke settled, the result was concentrated wines with a darker, more brooding complexion. The polish of the tannin, coupled with excellent concentration, should allow for a wide drinking window.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Barrel Description: 25% new, 25% 1 yr., 25% 2 yr., 25% 3+ yr.

Barrel Aged: 16 months

pH: 3.56

TA: 0.59g/100mL

Alc: 14.5%

Released Fall 2022

\$65

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