



2023 Williams Selyem Estate Vineyard Chardonnay

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

Initial aromas immediately capture the senses with a melody of jasmine flowers, stone fruit blossom, and hints of musk melon. Layered and complex, notes of lime and stone fruit mix with tangerine and rose oil. Oily and rich on the palate, the wine is compelling with incredible precision and weight. Flavors of passion fruit mix with tangerine and melon. The underlying tannin structure offers nice closure to the palate. Planted to 18 different Chardonnay clones in the same field, this wine pays tribute to old field blends often seen in old vine Zinfandel vineyards, which lead to wines of stunning complexity.

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 2023

We experienced a welcome sense of normality in 2023, after tumultuous weather patterns during previous growing seasons, including drought conditions, heat events, and hail. This vintage began auspiciously with historical average rainfall and modest temperatures at the start of bud break. Ample sunshine and early heat resulted in even growth of the canopies, creating uniformity and balance as the vines entered the flowering cycle. While it was similarly cool at the outset of 2011, the 2023 heat units built slowly, and the weather was ideal by May. The flowering period was quick, and the fruit set bountiful. The weather was perfect in June and July, with a few heat spikes that kept the plants healthy and sustained. Mid-season crop adjustments were necessary to ensure good vine balance as veraison approached. With the cooler start to the vintage and the normal fog pattern of August, the ripening cycle slowed, and the crop achieved ideal hang time for tannin development at modest sugars. Across the board, the wines exhibit terrific purity of character with excellent tannin resolution. While hot and dry years can create wines of shocking intensity, these cooler vintages showcase the elegant style of Williams Selyem.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Barrel Description: 30% new, 15% 1yr., 35% 2 yr., 20% 3+ yr.

Barrel Aged: 16 months

pH: 3.48

TA: 0.58g/100mL

Alc: 14.0%

Released 2025

