

BJØRNSTAD CELLARS

2007 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay

Vineyard Notes

Kent Ritchie has been farming Chardonnay on his 'Ritchie Vineyard' in the heart of the Russian River Valley appellation since 1972. The vineyard is situated on a bench above the Russian River. The proximity to both the Sonoma Coast and Russian River grants access to the cooling influences of the coastal fog. With high summer temperatures moderated, the fruit is afforded a long growing season, allowing time for optimum fruit maturity. The soils are in the Goldridge series and are well drained, sandy loams. The Bjornstad block is planted to an Old Wente field selection that includes a very floral clone of Chardonnay known as Musque. These old vines produce low yields with a great concentration of flavor and expressions of rich, tropical fruit. It's been a great pleasure to work with Kent and his fruit since 1997 along with some of his other winery clients that include Aubert, DuMol, Flowers, Londer, Pahlmeyer, Ramey and Tandem.

Tasting Notes

The Ritchie Vineyard consistently produces distinctive Chardonnays, known for their richness and tropical fruit flavors. The glass is filled with roasty, toasty notes of 'creme brulee' and spices. Rich fruit aromas follow from ripe nectarine and tropical fruits along with wet stones, suggesting minerality. The entry is bold, crisp and bright. The layered textures spread across the palate with its mouth filling (mouth watering) palate weight. The wine is rich and viscous and balanced with an elegant acidity. The oak signature is present at such a level to support the complex of aroma and flavors components. The fruit, rich cream and mineral flavors follow onto the palate beautifully, providing even greater depth to the aromas.

Production: 200 bottles

Release date: May 1, 2010

Suggested retail: \$50

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