

BJØRNSTAD CELLARS

2005 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 Chardonnays that are full, rich and renown for their exotic tropical fruit flavors. Bjornstad's representation expresses these hallmarks that characterize the vineyard's sense of place, or *terroir*. Complex aromas reveal creamy vanillas and crème brulee, ripe mango and citrus peel. These aromas follow through onto the palate with a seductive richness that gives way to a long, persistent finish.

Production: 1920 bottles

Release date: October 1, 2006

Suggested retail: \$50