

BJØRNSTAD CELLARS

2006 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. Bjornstad's representation expresses a somewhat leaner version, consistent with the characteristics of the 2006 vintage. The complex aromas reveal sweet citrus notes of Mandarin orange and Meyer lemon meringue. Creamy vanillas and butterscotch layer nicely with the fruit and toasty oak notes. Flavors follow aromas onto the palate with a beautiful balance of acid and richness that gives way to a long, persistent finish.

Production: 3282 bottles

Release date: November 1, 2007

Suggested retail: \$50

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