



DE LOACH
VINEYARDS

The Russian River Valley Original



APPELLATION
Russian River Valley

ALCOHOL
14.5% by volume

pH
3.53

TITRATABLE ACIDITY
5.5 g/L

AGED IN OAK
100%

38% New Oak

ORIGIN OF OAK
French

MONTHS IN BARREL
17

2016 RITCHIE VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

IN THE VINEYARD

With its beautiful old vines nestled on a rolling northwest-facing hillside in the heart of the Russian River Valley, the Ritchie Vineyard commands respect. First planted in 1972, this vineyard features Sandy Goldridge soils from an ancient seabed combined with volcanic ash deposits, pockets of tufa rocks and sloping benchlands that lead into the Russian River to create a remarkably unique “Grand Cru” site that produces wines of strength and great natural acidity. Wines from this vineyard site often exhibit a rare complexity and intensity that has spawned a legion of loyal Ritchie followers.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKER

A blend of two Chardonnay clones contributes to the unique character of this wine: the Musqué clone yields fruit of delightful floral and sweet spice nuance, while the Wente clone imparts rich texture and multi-dimensional layers of fruit. Hand picking, sorting, and whole-cluster basket pressing preserves these flavors, while barrel fermentation and sur lie aging lend firmness and palate richness, establishing structure for this wine to retain depth and complexity for several years.

TASTING NOTES

Our 2016 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay bursts open with vibrant aromas of citrus fruits, key lime and a touch of minerality. Crisp flavors of lemon curd, vanilla and a touch of toasted oak lend to a rich, creamy mouthfeel. A medium body continues to spread across the palate creating a soft, silky finish with well-balanced acidity.

Jean Charles Boisset

JEAN-CHARLES BOISSET
Proprietor

Brian Maloney

BRIAN MALONEY
Winemaker