



DE LOACH
VINEYARDS

Chardonnay

RITCHIE VINEYARD

MIDDLE REACH

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

VINTAGE 2017

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 contribute 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

Alluring citrus aromas waft from the glass with a touch of minerality. Mandarin orange, lemon curd and nuances of toffee and clove flavors spread across the palate. This is a crisp and refreshing Chardonnay with a silky and well-balanced finish.

TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION:
Russian River Valley

ALCOHOL: 14.5%

PH: 3.48

TA: 5.8 g/L

AGING: 100% French oak,
20% new

MONTHS IN BARREL: 14

