

2023 Vintage Notes

A VINTAGE IN BALANCE

The 2023 growing season was defined by dramatic weather swings that shaped the vintage into one of patience and precision. Beginning with massive winter rains and a delayed bud break—over a month later than in 2020 or 2021—the season progressed through a cool, extended spring that stretched flowering to an unprecedented 4-6 weeks.

Summer brought a mix of mild temperatures with periodic heat spikes, including a few days over 100°F in July, ensuring steady ripening. Veraison began slowly in late August, and September's cool weather further prolonged the season. Ripening accelerated in early October with a brief warm spell before concluding with timely harvests just ahead of significant rains in late October.

The 2023 wines capture the essence of this unique vintage, showcasing vibrant fruit, lifted aromatics, and remarkable balance. Pinot Noirs from this year glow with ruby hues and offer both elegance and complexity, while the Chardonnays deliver a focused, mineral-driven structure and fresh, layered flavors. This vintage is a testament to the synergy between nature and winemaking, resulting in wines of precision, depth, and grace.



Cheers!

Matt Courtney





2023 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY CHARDONNAY



Our Russian River Valley Chardonnay represents the essence of the appellation — a composite of five standout sites: Flora Marie, El Diablo, Ritchie, Banfield, and the Westside Road Vineyard. In 2023, each of these vineyards contributed something vital to the blend: crystalline acidity, layered citrus, coastal salinity, and floral lift. Made with a lighter hand on new oak and built for early enjoyment, this bottling captures the freshness and finesse of a cooler, more traditional vintage.

The nose is bright and vivid, marked by a fleeting touch of reduction that quickly gives way to aromas of green apple skin, crushed limestone, and lemon blossom. On the palate, the wine is taut and energetic, with a core of lemon-lime, white nectarine, and oyster shell. A subtle creaminess from extended lees contact adds texture, while a clean line of saline minerality carries the wine through a long, racy finish.

The 2023 RRV Chardonnay is a snapshot of the vintage — precise, lifted, and eminently drinkable.

Peak drinking window: 2026 through 2032.

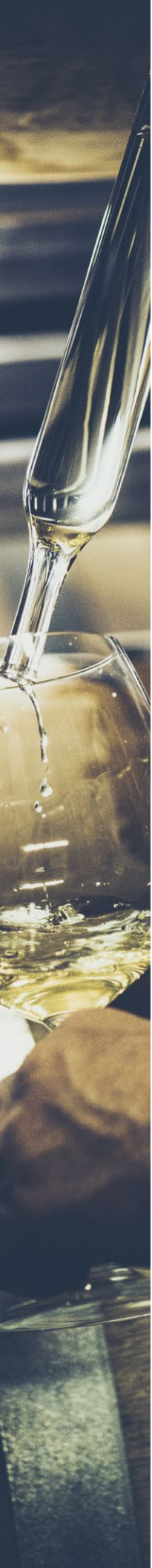
2023 BANFIELD VINEYARD CHARDONNAY



Tucked into a cool pocket of the Russian River Valley, Banfield Vineyard is a living piece of Sonoma history. The Chardonnay block, planted in 1980, is now among the oldest in California — dry-farmed, low-yielding, and remarkably expressive. Year after year, these 45-year-old Old Wente vines deliver a Chardonnay of uncommon depth and detail.

The 2023 vintage is no exception. Focused and opulent in equal measure, it opens with soaring aromatics of Meyer lemon, brûléed sugar, orange blossom, and chamomile. On the palate, layers of preserved citrus, lime zest, and baked apple unfold over a spine of piercing acidity. Hints of honeysuckle, spice cake, and salted caramel echo long into the finish, reminding you why Banfield remains a cornerstone of the Arista portfolio.

Peak drinking window: 2027 through 2040



2023 EL DIABLO VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

High on Windsor Ridge, where morning light filters through the eastern hills of the Russian River Valley, El Diablo Vineyard offers a rare combination of energy and refinement. The vineyard's east-facing exposure tempers the summer heat, allowing the fruit to ripen slowly and retain its hallmark verve.

The 2023 vintage channels that signature tension and clarity. The nose opens with cool-toned aromas of Asian pear, crushed limestone, and lime leaf, layered with hints of grilled pineapple and sweet cream. The palate is electric yet composed, with bright acidity guiding flavors of green mango, yuzu, and a touch of marzipan. A gentle creaminess from the lees aging adds volume, while subtle notes of baked citrus and warm spice glide into a long, mineral-driven finish.

Peak drinking window: 2026 through 2035.



2023 FLORA MARIE VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

Although Flora Marie is one of the newest sites to join our lineup of vineyard-designated Chardonnays, our relationship with this vineyard runs deep. For years, its fruit quietly contributed to our Russian River Valley Chardonnay, lending freshness and structure. Only recently have we begun bottling it on its own, a decision driven by the vineyard's increasingly distinctive voice.

Perched on the same ridgeline as El Diablo and Ritchie Vineyards, Flora Marie sits in what we consider the heartland of great Chardonnay in Sonoma County. This corridor of east-facing slopes is bathed in gentle morning sun, with cooler afternoons that preserve vibrant acidity. But it's the soils — pure, sandy Goldridge — that lend this wine its signature precision and mineral edge. The 2023 vintage is both tightly coiled and expressive, offering aromas of citrus blossom, crushed oyster shell, and candied lime. On the palate, a core of zesty acidity carries flavors of lemon oil, chalk, and roasted hazelnut, finishing long and lifted with a stony, mouthwatering cut.

Peak drinking window: 2026 through 2034.



2023 PERLI VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

Tucked into the fog-shrouded ridgelines of the Mendocino Coast at 1800 feet elevation, Perli Vineyard is dramatic in every sense — steep, remote, and sculpted by ocean winds. Though it sits just north of the Sonoma Coast boundary, the vineyard’s soils, elevation, and exposure place it among the most distinctive coastal Chardonnay sites in California.

The 2023 vintage channels all of that rugged character into a wine of laser-like precision and coastal energy. Aromatics lean into savory territory at first — a wisp of struck match, sea spray, and grilled citrus peel — before revealing notes of white peach, lemon balm, and crème fraîche. The palate is chiseled and mineral, carried by taut acidity and a cool-toned citrus profile. A touch of texture from lees aging gives the wine just enough roundness to balance its linear core.

Bright, structured, and full of tension, the 2023 Perli Chardonnay is a high-wire act of intensity and restraint, with years of evolution ahead.

Peak drinking window: 2026 through 2032.



2023 REULING VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

We’re excited to introduce the Reuling Vineyard Chardonnay to our mailing list for the first time with the 2023 vintage. While this is a new addition to our single-vineyard lineup, the site itself is anything but new to the upper echelon of California Chardonnay. Originally planted in 2000 by Mark Aubert and Peter Michael, Reuling Vineyard is located just outside of Forestville on a gentle, sandy hillside rich in Goldridge soil. The vineyard’s heritage Montrachet clone, combined with its proximity to the cooling marine influence of the Sonoma Coast, consistently yields wines of structure, complexity, and refinement.

Our inaugural release from Reuling captures the vineyard’s distinct personality with clarity and poise. Aromatically, the wine opens with ripe stone fruit, citrus peel, and a thread of crushed rock. The palate is focused and energetic, offering layers of white peach, lemon curd, and oyster shell, framed by brisk acidity and a savory mineral core. The finish is long, textured, and mouthwatering—an elegant debut that speaks to the pedigree of the site.

Peak drinking window: 2027 through 2040.





2023 RITCHIE VINEYARD CHARDONNAY



In a growing season that harkened back to the cool-climate vintages of the past, the old vines at Ritchie Vineyard showed exactly why this site belongs in the Grand Cru tier of California Chardonnay. The long, gentle 2023 season — following a winter of abundant rain — gave these nearly 50-year-old “Old Wente” vines the time they needed to slowly develop intense flavor while preserving razor-sharp natural acidity. Planted in the coveted *Goldridge* soil series on a modest, well-drained slope, the oldest block at Ritchie once again delivered a tiny crop of small, power-packed clusters.

The resulting wine is vivid and tightly coiled, with an energy that pulses from the glass. Aromas of white peach, preserved lemon, crushed oyster shell, and spring blossoms lead into a finely etched palate layered with green apple, lime oil, and stone fruit. There’s a gentle creaminess from the lees, but the wine’s core is all about purity and precision. As it unfolds in the glass, deeper notes of chamomile, baked citrus, and a wisp of salted caramel emerge — a nod to the site’s signature richness, kept perfectly in check by the vintage’s structure. The 2023 Ritchie is a wine built for the long haul, offering both clarity and quiet power.

Peak drinking window: 2027 through 2040.



2023 LONGBOW CHARDONNAY

Open and accessible right out of the gate, the 2023 Longbow Chardonnay hints at an old-school California style. At 40% new oak this wine is a touch more forward than our typical Chardonnay offerings, but it works effortlessly in this vintage. A blend of our favorite Russian River Valley sites, this wine is particularly expressive, with notes of baking spices, white peach nectar, chamomile flower, grilled pineapple, caramel, wet stones, and lemon candy all playing a role. This Chardonnay is absolutely delicious now but will also age gracefully for a decade or more if there is space in your cellar.

Peak drinking window: 2025 through 2035.



2023 ESTATE CHARDONNAY

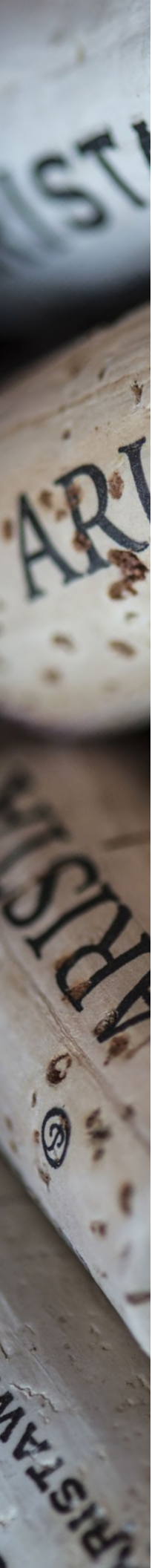
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Peak drinking window: 2026 through 2032.





2023 LONGBOW PINOT NOIR

The 2023 Longbow Pinot Noir 20th Anniversary bottling is an homage to our Longbow blends from days gone by. This special cuvée is a barrel selection from our favorite Russian River Valley Pinot Noir sites. With a touch more new oak than our Russian River Valley appellation wines, this is a blend that is made to age well. A punchy mid-palate of blueberry, raspberry, and mint is framed by grippy tannins and mild acidity. This wine is super fresh and quaffable now but will also age gracefully for the next ten years.

Peak drinking window: 2025 - 2035.



2023 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR

The 2023 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir captures the vintage's signature freshness and making this entry-level Pinot Noir an impressive representation of the Russian River Valley's timeless elegance. A vibrant reflection of the long season, this release displays crisp red fruit and high-toned botanical notes, plus a glowing ruby red color. Notes of red cherry, cranberry, and rose petal are elevated by a fresh, tangy mouthfeel and subtle earthy undertones. The extended season allowed us to harvest beautifully mature grapes, while a modest 25% whole-cluster fermentation contributes to the wine's delicate floral aromatics and fine-grained texture. Framed by just 20% new French oak, the wine retains its bright and approachable character, offering complexity without compromising drinkability.

Peak drinking window: 2026 - 2034.

2023 JOSEPH SWAN VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Few sites in the Russian River Valley carry the historical weight and mystique of the Joseph Swan Vineyard. One of the earliest plantings of Pinot Noir in the region, it has not only shaped the identity of the appellation but also given rise to the celebrated “Swan” clone — a selection now planted across California, prized for its aromatic lift and finesse.

For decades, the vineyard remained solely in the hands of the Swan family. That’s what makes our small partnership here so meaningful — and the results, nothing short of exhilarating. From the moment it hits the glass, this wine announces itself with a heady swirl of red currant, wild raspberry, and rose petal, layered over hints of pine, bergamot, and damp earth. The nose alone is transportive.

On the palate, the wine is a paradox in motion: simultaneously deep and lifted, structured and silken. Bright, juicy red fruits dance over fine-grained tannins, with a snap of minerality that extends the finish with remarkable clarity and length. It’s a wine that speaks softly but insists on attention — graceful, detailed, and bursting with energy.

Peak drinking window: 2027-2040+



2023 KANZLER VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Kanzler Vineyard, located just south of Sebastopol in one of the coolest zones of the Russian River Valley, continues to prove itself as one of the most exciting vineyard sites in our lineup. Planted in Goldridge soils and farmed organically by Eric Neil, the vines—now nearing 30 years of age—are delivering fruit with increasing nuance and energy.

The 2023 vintage brought a long, slow growing season, thanks to a wet winter and cool spring that pushed ripening into October. For a site like Kanzler, this extended hang time was ideal. The fruit came in beautifully balanced, with bright acidity, moderate sugar, and excellent skin development.

In the glass, the wine is strikingly perfumed—red currant, pomegranate, and wild strawberry rise from the glass, accented by fresh sage, rose petal, and sandalwood. The palate is layered and lifted, with precise flavors of blood orange, raspberry, and crushed stone that glide across a finely textured frame. The finish is long, detailed, and almost airy, showing the clarity and finesse that are becoming hallmarks of this site.

Peak drinking window: 2027 through 2037.





2023 MONONI VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

The Mononi Vineyard has been a cornerstone of our Pinot Noir program since Arista's earliest days. Located along Olivet Lane in the heart of the Russian River Valley, this 3-acre site surrounds the home of longtime grower Paul Mononi, whose deep roots in the area and lifetime of farming experience are reflected in the quality of this fruit. We're proud to continue our longstanding relationship as the exclusive producer of wine from this special vineyard.

Now approaching three decades of age, the vines consistently yield Pinot Noir of depth and generosity. The 2023 vintage leans into the natural richness of this warmer site, with layers of dark cherry and spiced plum on the nose. The palate is plush but structured, offering notes of red licorice, clove, and cedar, with a silky tannin profile that builds toward a long, savory finish. While delicious now with air, this vintage promises additional complexity with time in bottle.

Peak drinking window: 2027 through 2035.

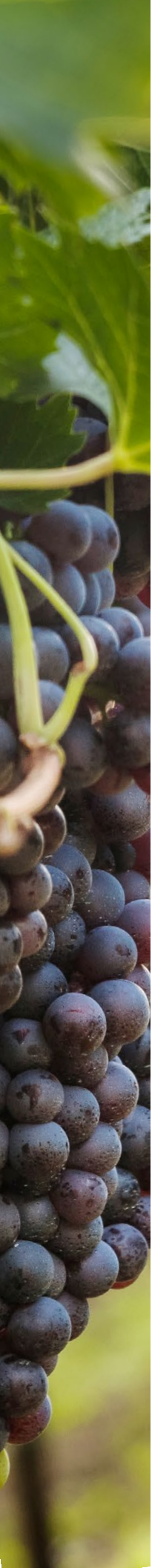


2023 PERLI VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Perched high above the Pacific Ocean on the Mendocino Coast at 1,800 feet above sea level, Perli Vineyard is the most visually spectacular site in Arista's portfolio. The steep, 60% slopes face south and provide expansive views of the nearby Sonoma Coast.

Perli's proximity to the famous vineyards that dot the ridgetops of the Sonoma Coast is immediately evident on the glass: Exotic notes of forest floor, tart cherry, rhubarb, and wild berry come alive in the 2023—all hallmarks of Sonoma's rugged coastal vineyards. Yet the wine's grippy tannins and firm acidity speak to the slightly cooler climate of this more northerly, high-elevation site. The 2023 edition of this wine is exceptionally elegant and ethereal, with delicate floral and botanical details and a brilliant translucent ruby color.

Peak drinking window: 2026 - 2034.



2023 REULING VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Reuling Vineyard sits along the prized Laguna Ridge, just south of Forestville, in the heart of the Russian River Valley. This is a site that delivers both pedigree and personality — fine, sandy Goldridge soils and a gently cooling marine influence combine to produce Pinot Noir of exceptional purity, vibrancy, and aromatic lift.

From the first pour, this wine is captivating. Bright red cherry, pomegranate, and wild strawberry leap from the glass, layered with notes of rose petal, crushed violets, and baking spice. With time, deeper tones of forest floor, graphite, and blood orange emerge, adding complexity and depth. The palate is energetic and finely woven — a striking interplay of juicy acidity, silken texture, and mineral tension that drives the wine to a long, echoing finish.

Among our Pinot Noirs, Reuling stands out for its seamless balance of charm and detail. It's a wine that dazzles with its perfume and delivers a thrilling expression of site with every sip.

Peak drinking window: 2027 though 2037.



2023 UV LUCKY WELL VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Lucky Well Vineyard is perched at the very top of Stoetz Ridge, the land mass that divides the true Sonoma Coast from the Russian River Valley. As such, the wine made from this site always expresses qualities of both regions: the high-toned wild berry fruit and earthiness of the Coast, and the Russian River's signature power and richness.

The 2023 vintage brought its own set of challenges and rewards, with a cool, extended growing season and late harvest—allowing for exceptional flavor development and phenolic maturity. The resulting wine is beautiful with its hallmark jewel-like ruby color and effusive scents of fresh alpine strawberry, cola, dried flowers, hard candy, and turned earth. On the palate, vibrant flavors of tart raspberry, Damson plum, and a touch of pomegranate unfold, complemented by a lively, fresh acidity.

Peak drinking window: 2026 - 2038.





2023 UV VINEYARD PINOT NOIR



The UV Vineyard sits atop a low lying ridge Goldilocks zone of the Russian River Valley. This is truly the tenderloin of the appellation—to the east lie the warmer lowlands of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and to the west lie the exposed ridge tops of the Sonoma coast. There are many famous Russian River Valley vineyards in this narrow corridor, but maybe none with such a pure example of Goldridge soil—the powdery, nearly white soil that gives Russian River Valley wines their renowned energy and elegance.

Dark garnet in color, the 2023 UV Vineyard Pinot Noir is a perfect example of this balance: A classic Russian River Valley perfume of roses, crushed bramble, candied strawberries, pine forest, and wet stones is accented by a subtle toasty barrel note. On the palate, the wine has a lively, mouth-watering, energetic feel powered by bright but well-integrated natural acidity and fine, powdery tannins. The UV Vineyard Pinot Noir is delicious now, but its firm structure bodes well for aging so be sure to stash a bottle or two in the back of your cellar.

Peak drinking window: 2027 through 2040.



2023 ESTATE PINOT NOIR

Juxtaposing lush fruit with restraint, the Estate Pinot Noir represents the purest expression of our ethos as grape growers and winemakers at Arista. Of all the neighborhoods of the Russian River Valley, the Middle Reach has risen to fame as host to the oldest vineyards in the appellation, and also as the source of its most prodigious wines. Our ten acres of Pinot Noir lie in the heart of the Middle Reach, and were planted by legendary vineyard manager Ulises Valdez using 100% heritage selections of Pinot Noir.

The 2023 Estate Pinot Noir is a textbook example of what is possible in this celebrated appellation: Concentrated yet balanced, the wine melds notes of elderberry reduction, raspberry, black cherry, pencil lead, and toasted brioche. Combining fine-grained, polished tannins and well-integrated acidity, plus explosive blue fruit flavors, the 2023 Estate Pinot Noir is undiluted luxury on the palate.

Peak drinking window: 2026 - 2040.