

# CATERWAUL

## 2023 CATERWAUL NORTH COAST CHARDONNAY

### NOTES

While North Coast may not be as desirable a designation as the dominant Napa Valley fruit that comprises this blend, it is a descriptive indicator of the complexity of our first edition of Caterwaul Chardonnay. Barrel-fermented and aged on lees for 18 months, early oak integration helps cement the structure of a multifaceted wine. Brilliant medium-straw in the glass, with notes of honeysuckle, white peach and lemon zest. The backbone of Mt. Veeder Chardonnay gives heft to the mouthfeel, while more northerly vineyards lock in the freshness in every sip. Seemingly something for everyone in this wine. 30% new Latour oak barrels frame the lasting finish, mingling a light toast with crisp citrus.

### VINTAGE

A high-potential vintage is characterized by the median of inputs like rainfall, sunshine, heat and lack of unexpected weather events. 2023 has been heralded early and often as a legendary vintage because of this exact scenario. Average annual winter and spring rains set up an uneventful frost season, a warm and mild growing season and the lack of harvest heat or rain to force picking. Winemakers were blessed to harvest fruit exactly when they wanted it and the wineries processed without the usual rush and pressure for tanks. For white wines, natural acidity was built slowly and retained with sugar levels staying low due to mild temperatures. The depth and complexity of flavors is only rivaled by their distilled purity.

### PARTNERSHIP

A partnership between Matt Hardin and Thomas Brown was formed during the 2014 vintage after countless years of working together. Out of that friendship the idea of utilizing the strengths of one another gave birth to Caterwaul wines. Matt Hardin, a 6th generation Pope Valley resident and farmer, is owner of Hardin Vineyard Management, one of the most renowned vineyard management companies in Northern California as well as his own Matthew Wallace Wines. Thomas Rivers Brown, winemaker for some of Napa and Sonoma's most iconic labels (Schrader Cellars, Outpost and his own Rivers-Marie, Aston & Dorsey), has more than 60 100-point wines to his resume.



### APPELLATION:

North Coast

### VARIETAL:

Chardonnay

### BARREL AGING:

100% French Oak, 30% New  
18 Months in barrel,  
barrel-fermented

### ALCOHOL:

13.5%

### TOTAL PRODUCTION:

490 Cases