

Ernest Vineyards

Alder Springs Vineyard / Chardonnay 2021

Mendocino County

THE VINEYARD: Alder Springs Vineyard is known for producing exceptional fruit, specifically focusing on Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Syrah, and Rhone red and white varietals on its 6,000 acre ranch (only about 140 acres are planted) in Northern Mendocino, just 10 miles from the Pacific Ocean and ranging from 1,700 to 2,700 feet of elevation.

WINEMAKING: With over 20 different Chardonnay clones planted on a steep hillside in the Lower Vineyard at Alder, the wine is picked based on flavor instead of chemistry as its nearly impossible to sample accurately. We embrace the chaos! Taking over a year to complete fermentation in one-third new oak puncheons, the wine was then moved to stainless steel for the final six months of its 18 month elevage. Bottled unfined and unfiltered.

TASTING NOTES: The aromas are unapologetically what we've come to expect from this varietal we love so much. It is a seductive and enticing wine with hints of orchard and stone fruit in perfect harmony, followed by subtle notes of wet sand and toasted hazelnut. As it warms up in the glass it shows some warm and complex notes of creamy oak followed by bright citrus zest. On the palate, the seductive nature of this wine is fully revealed with an irresistible and decadent melange of summer fruit, like ripe peach, nectarine, and juicy naval orange.

ALC. BY VOL: 11.5%

AGING: 35% NEW FRENCH OAK

LENGTH: 18 MONTHS

WINEMAKER: JOSEPH RYAN

CASES PRODUCED: 200

CLONES: Masale

HARVEST BRIX: 22.6

