

## 2021 Ernest Vineyards Chardonnay Joyce Vineyard

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Sourced from vineyards on well-drained Goodridge soils, the 2021 Chardonnay Joyce Vineyard has a medium straw appearance, and with a bit of time in the glass, it opens to fresh aromas of flinty wet stones, lime zest, and pristine green apple. It is tightly wound and would do well for a decant at this youthful stage. Medium-bodied, with a well-concentrated and even core, it is persistent with energy and mineral drive, with notes of savory herbs, citrus oils, and white peach that are long on the palate. A fantastic wine, it would do well to give it another year or two before drinking. Drink 2025-2035.

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*As a West Sonoma Coast Vintners association member, Ernest Vineyards is based out of the Freestone-Occidental area and was founded in 2012 by Erin Brooks and Todd Gottula. In 2017, they established their custom crush facility called Grand Cru, across the street from DuMOL. The wines for this report were tasted in Sonoma with winemaker Joseph Ryan, who joined the team in 2018. Over the past few years of tasting these wines, I have become more impressed with the direction of this estate. Initially, I was drawn to their crisp, Burgundian-inspired whites, especially the refreshing, herbal-tinged Aligoté, which I considered an outstanding and versatile value for the wine list when I was a wine director in New York. Looking at the 2021 vintage, the bar has been raised across the board, and I highly encourage readers to seek out these wines, which retain a vibrant sense of place. Their Chardonnay and Pinot Noir offerings are certainly deserving of more attention and worthy of cellaring.*

**- Audrey Frick (7/21/2023)**

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