

RAEN

Research in Agriculture and Enology Naturally



THE 2023 VINTAGE

A Vintage to Remember

The 2023 vintage on the west Sonoma Coast is one of the best we have experienced since founding RAEN.

The growing season began with heavy winter rainfall, cleansing the thirsty forests, rivers, and meadows, nourishing our vines and all the microflora, fauna, and nature surrounding them. A cool, breezy spring gave way to a beautiful, mild summer. As harvest approached, coastal fog engulfed the grapes, sunlight shone softly above, and with each day, slowly and evenly, the grapes approached ripeness. As we began harvest without rush, the beautiful aromatics from each of our sites slowly began to fill the cellar air. The cool 2023 growing season on the Coast has imparted its mark of near perfection for what we love in wine - lifted aromatics, elegance, and depth that reflect the incredibly biodiverse sites where our vines are rooted.

Enjoyable now, this vintage is one we can't wait to tuck away in the cellar and watch evolve for many more decades to come.

2023 CHARLES RANCH VINEYARD, FORT ROSS-SEAVIEW

Varietal	CHARDONNAY
Vine Age	Planted in 1981
Rootstock	Pre-phylloxera AXR St. George
Soils	JOSEPHINE & GOLDRIDGE
Clone	WENTE
Fermentation	WHOLE CLUSTER & NATIVE
Alc %	12.5%
Winemaker	MELANIE MCINTYRE
Proprietors / Winegrowers	CARLO & DANTE MONDAVI

This hillside site in rugged Fort Ross-Seaview sits at 1,200 feet in elevation, only a couple of miles inland from the Pacific Ocean and just up the road from our Sea Field estate. The vines, planted over 40 years ago, represent some of the oldest plantings of chardonnay on the coast. Sitting atop well-drained, rocky soils, the yields are naturally low, giving wines of incredible depth, concentration and minerality. The 2023 vintage leads with aromas of wet rock, fresh white flowers, chamomile blossom, and summer apricot. These aromas are followed by just-ripe white nectarine, lemon zest and a persistence of minerality with crushed seashells, wet rock, and a dash of sea salt. This all comes together, transporting us to the site where these vines are rooted, giving way to a depth of flavors and aromas that provide a racy yet elegant finish.

