



2011 CHARDONNAY

Peters Vineyard

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

HARVEST DATE:	October 12, 2011
BARREL AGING:	10 Months
BARREL COMPOSITION:	100% French Oak 25% New
BOTTLED:	August 19, 2012
CASE PRODUCTION:	276
WINE STATS:	pH - 3.43, TA - 0.67 Alc: 13.2%

Tasting Notes

NOSE:

Smoke- and ginger-accented aromas and flavors of fresh pear and peach

PALATE:

Buttered toast nuances with air and finishes spicy, focused and long, with very good clarity and a lingering mineral note.

Vineyard Insights

Farmed by Tom Mukaida and his son-in-law Randy Peters this prime vineyard location was once an apple orchard until Randy convinced his father-in-law this cool foggy hillside might work well for grapes.

Starting in the early 1980s, the property was slowly planted to Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, representing one of the very first plantings of these two varietals in the hills south of Sebastopol. The southern facing slopes help to form the northern boundary of the Petaluma Gap, the main artery for the cooling marine winds blowing inland from the Pacific Ocean.

Our Chardonnay, from a older block of Clone 4, benefits both from its sunny southern exposure and the influence of cool, marine air, creating wines of intense flavor and bright acidity.

Vintage Notes

The standout characteristic of the 2011 vintage was that it was unusually cool throughout the growing season. A surprisingly dry winter was followed by a quite moist, cool spring, delaying budbreak and early vine growth. Early June brought a powerful rainstorm to the area, which dramatically reduced fruit set and grape yields. After these early difficulties, however, a cool, temperate summer created perfect ripening conditions for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay; the days were evenly warm and no month had heat extremes. Because of this, harvest was delayed as much as two or three weeks later than normal, allowing for extended hang time and flavor development during the month of September. An early October rain led to some anxious nailbiting, but the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir that we grow sailed through this without detriment. Though the vintage for many was thought of as a bit of a disaster, we welcomed the elegant, intensely-flavored wines that 2011 bore.



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