

2015 Bench Chardonnay | *Russian River Valley*

Vineyard- Sourced from two vineyards in the Russian River Valley, Louvau and Bazzano. These two vineyards are adjacent to one another and share many similarities: both planted in the late 1970s and are planted to Clone 4 chardonnay. Both yield grapes with excellent balance of fruit, mineral and acidity.

Vintage- The 2015 vintage offered excellent growing conditions. A mild winter and spring compounded with almost no rain contributed to early ripening, low to moderate yields and highly concentrated grapes resulting in exceptional quality. 2015 is one of the earliest vintages we've seen in over a decade, but it will also go down as one of the best.

Fermentation- Whole cluster pressed to tank and cold settled overnight then racked off heavy solids to tank and barrels. The tank was inoculated with a proprietary yeast, barrels were allowed to ferment with indigenous flora. ML was arrested to retain a bright, mineral style of wine.

Harvest Date: September 11th - 15th, 2015

Winemaker: Dan Fitzgerald

Assistant Winemaker: Nicole Michael

Yeast: Indigenous

Cooperage & Aging: 60% Stainless steel and 40% barrel fermented with 10% new French oak, aged for 11 months in Stainless steel and oak before bottling.

Bottling: August 2016 **Production:** 1,097

Sensory Notes: The 2015 Bench Chardonnay has a hue of pale straw yellow in the glass. The nose is reminiscent of fresh rainfall mixed with honey and orange blossom. The palate is crisp and well textured with flavors of stone fruit and honeydew melon, complemented by a wet stone finish.

Final Technical Information:

pH: 3.44 **TA:** .72 **RS:** 0.012 grams/liter **Alc:** 13.6%

Available Formats: 750ml

Suggested Retail Price: \$22.00

