



2021 ESTATE CHARDONNAY

Russian River Valley

TASTING NOTES

In 2011, we planted a one-acre parcel of Montrachet Selection Chardonnay on our Westside Road estate under the expert guidance of our vineyard manager, Ulises Valdez. Over the next decade we produced wine from this block, gradually observing the vineyard's maturation and the wines' continual improvement. All the while, we hoped this site would somehow earn a dedicated bottling—a moment that arrived in the spring of 2021. While sampling the 2019 vintage in the cellar, it became evident that this cuvée had unequivocally “arrived” and deserved a place in our portfolio alongside our Estate Pinot Noir.

In keeping with the overarching character of the 2021 vintage, the third edition of our Estate Chardonnay is full of tension and texture. We love how this release showcases the continuous evolution of the vineyard in the form of its pleasant tartness and notes of lemon curd, white flowers, and white peach. Across the palate, a firm core of bright yellow citrus defines this wine, which is balanced by a steely, mineral-infused finish.

Peak drinking window: 2025 through 2035.

VINEYARD NOTES

Our lone block of white grapes is the Chardonnay block, which produces a tiny amount of Arista's rare estate Chardonnay. This one-acre site was planted in 2011, with a Montrachet clone of Chardonnay. The budwood for this block is a suitcase clone from Burgundy's famed Montrachet vineyard that was brought into the United States decades ago. Here, the soils are made of well-draining Sobrante loam. This soil series naturally controls vine vigor, leading to low yields and well-balanced wines. From 2014 until 2018, the wine from this single-acre vineyard was blended into our Russian River Valley Appellation Chardonnay, where it contributed citrus and juicy stone fruit notes. In 2019, when it became clear that the site had fully matured, we began crafting and bottling the wine as a single-vineyard expression of Chardonnay. Because of the site's naturally low yields and diminutive size, we produce just a few special barrels of Chardonnay from this vineyard each year. The wine represents one of Arista's most grand and pure wines.

ARISTA

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