

2023 BANFIELD VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

Russian River Valley

TASTING NOTES

Tucked into a cool pocket of the Russian River Valley, Banfield Vineyard is a living piece of Sonoma history. The Chardonnay block, planted in 1980, is now among the oldest in California — dry-farmed, low-yielding, and remarkably expressive. Year after year, these 45-year-old Old Wente vines deliver a Chardonnay of uncommon depth and detail.

The 2023 vintage is no exception. Focused and opulent in equal measure, it opens with soaring aromatics of Meyer lemon, brûléed sugar, orange blossom, and chamomile. On the palate, layers of preserved citrus, lime zest, and baked apple unfold over a spine of piercing acidity. Hints of honeysuckle, spice cake, and salted caramel echo long into the finish, reminding you why Banfield remains a cornerstone of the Arista portfolio.

Peak drinking window: 2027 through 2040

VINEYARD NOTES

The Banfield Vineyard Chardonnay comes from the northern edge of the Green Valley, a sub-appellation of the Russian River Valley. The location of this vineyard is ideal for growing Chardonnay due to the cooling influence of coastal fog. This dry farmed vineyard was planted in 1980 to the Wente Selection of Chardonnay, a highly prized selection of Chardonnay know for is small, loose clusters and intensely flavored grapes. The 40-year-old vines are rare in the Russian River Valley and produce lower yields per acre. What's lost in tonnage is more than compensated for in flavor and quality as is evidenced through the wines produced year after year. The combination of site and vine age represent a truly unique and distinct vineyard that we are proud to work with.

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