



2023 EL DIABLO VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

Russian River Valley

TASTING NOTES

High on Windsor Ridge, where morning light filters through the eastern hills of the Russian River Valley, El Diablo Vineyard offers a rare combination of energy and refinement. The vineyard's east-facing exposure tempers the summer heat, allowing the fruit to ripen slowly and retain its hallmark verve.

The 2023 vintage channels that signature tension and clarity. The nose opens with cool-toned aromas of Asian pear, crushed limestone, and lime leaf, layered with hints of grilled pineapple and sweet cream. The palate is electric yet composed, with bright acidity guiding flavors of green mango, yuzu, and a touch of marzipan. A gentle creaminess from the lees aging adds volume, while subtle notes of baked citrus and warm spice glide into a long, mineral-driven finish.

Peak drinking window: 2026 through 2035.

VINEYARD NOTES

Ulises Valdez planted the El Diablo Vineyard in 2008. The site is located on a ridge off Eastside Road and serves as the eastern edge of the Russian River Valley Appellation. The location of the site means that while each morning the vineyard is shrouded in fog, the marine layer burns off and the vines are able to soak in several hours of warm sunlight by early afternoon. Careful thought was put into both rootstock and clonal selection for the vineyard. Our blocks are planted to the Montrachet and Old Wente selections of Chardonnay, and are grafted to rootstock 420a. Row spacing is tight at 4x6 which helps to further reduce vigor and encourage competition for nutrients. The result is fairly low yielding vines that produce intense, flavor packed clusters. The two exceptional clone selections are perfectly matched to the climate of the Russian River Valley and, when planted to such an ideal site, can't help but give rise to a wine that seems to reach new levels of quality in each successive vintage.

ARISTA

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