

# 2023 FLORA MARIE CHARDONNAY

*Russian River Valley*

## TASTING NOTES

Although Flora Marie is one of the newest sites to join our lineup of vineyard-designated Chardonnays, our relationship with this vineyard runs deep. For years, its fruit quietly contributed to our Russian River Valley Chardonnay, lending freshness and structure. Only recently have we begun bottling it on its own, a decision driven by the vineyard's increasingly distinctive voice.

Perched on the same ridgeline as El Diablo and Ritchie Vineyards, Flora Marie sits in what we consider the heartland of great Chardonnay in Sonoma County. This corridor of east-facing slopes is bathed in gentle morning sun, with cooler afternoons that preserve vibrant acidity. But it's the soils — pure, sandy Goldridge — that lend this wine its signature precision and mineral edge. The 2023 vintage is both tightly coiled and expressive, offering aromas of citrus blossom, crushed oyster shell, and candied lime. On the palate, a core of zesty acidity carries flavors of lemon oil, chalk, and roasted hazelnut, finishing long and lifted with a stony, mouthwatering cut.

*Peak drinking window: 2026 through 2034.*

## PHILOSOPHY

The Flora Marie vineyard lies on one of our favorite ridgelines in the Russian River Valley. Situated directly between El Diablo and Ritchie, two other vineyards in the Arista portfolio, the Flora Marie site was originally developed by our good friend and legendary vineyard manager Ulises Valdez. He had the instinct that Chardonnay is perfect for this site, and the fact that he planted 100% Montrachet vines results in this beautiful wine we can now enjoy. Located on the warmer side of the Russian River, an uncommonly pure vein of Goldridge soils runs directly through this ridge, giving the grapes a rare degree of purity and freshness. The hillside itself faces East, which allows the vines to ripen under the gentle morning sunshine and remain protected against the more intense afternoon rays. For many years this Chardonnay was an integral component of our Russian River Valley bottling, but the uncommon complexity and nuance emerging from Flora Marie inspired us to craft a single-vineyard wine from the site.



**ARISTA**

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**ARISTA**

Healdsburg, California

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