

2023 PERLI VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

Mendocino Ridge

TASTING NOTES

Tucked into the fog-shrouded ridgelines of the Mendocino Coast at 1800 feet elevation, Perli Vineyard is dramatic in every sense — steep, remote, and sculpted by ocean winds. Though it sits just north of the Sonoma Coast boundary, the vineyard's soils, elevation, and exposure place it among the most distinctive coastal Chardonnay sites in California.

The 2023 vintage channels all of that rugged character into a wine of laser-like precision and coastal energy. Aromatics lean into savory territory at first — a wisp of struck match, sea spray, and grilled citrus peel — before revealing notes of white peach, lemon balm, and crème fraîche. The palate is chiseled and mineral, carried by taut acidity and a cool-toned citrus profile. A touch of texture from lees aging gives the wine just enough roundness to balance its linear core.

Bright, structured, and full of tension, the 2023 Perli Chardonnay is a high-wire act of intensity and restraint, with years of evolution ahead.

Peak drinking window: 2026 through 2032.

VINEYARD NOTES

The Perli Vineyard Chardonnay, originally planted in the late 1990's, sits high above the Mendocino Coast in the Mendocino Ridge Appellation. Surrounded by Redwood forests and rugged, mountain cliffs, the Perli Vineyard is easily one of the most dramatic vineyards. At 2,200 feet above sea level and just 6 miles in from the Pacific Ocean, this unique site produces striking wines year-in, year-out. The combination of high elevation and coastal influence has a significant impact on how the grapes ripen and the flavor profile of the resulting wines. The elevation keeps the vineyard well above the near permanent, coastal fog layer which helps minimize moisture in the vineyard which in turn reduces the chance of mildew. At the same time, the steady breeze off the Pacific keeps the temperature relatively mild and further reduces moisture in the vineyard. Daytime highs during the growing season rarely exceed 80 degrees while nighttime lows generally hover in 50's. The narrow diurnal swing means the grape vines never fully shut down to extreme daytime heat or nighttime lows. The coastal influence also affects annual production as cold spring temperatures, rain, fog, and wind often minimize fruit set and keep yields very low. The Perli Vineyard is truly a unique site in one of the most promising appellations in Northern California.

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2023

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