

2023 Vintage Notes

# A VINTAGE IN BALANCE

The 2023 growing season was defined by dramatic weather swings that shaped the vintage into one of patience and precision. Beginning with massive winter rains and a delayed bud break—over a month later than in 2020 or 2021—the season progressed through a cool, extended spring that stretched flowering to an unprecedented 4-6 weeks.

Summer brought a mix of mild temperatures with periodic heat spikes, including a few days over 100°F in July, ensuring steady ripening. Veraison began slowly in late August, and September's cool weather further prolonged the season. Ripening accelerated in early October with a brief warm spell before concluding with timely harvests just ahead of significant rains in late October.

The 2023 wines capture the essence of this unique vintage, showcasing vibrant fruit, lifted aromatics, and remarkable balance. Pinot Noirs from this year glow with ruby hues and offer both elegance and complexity, while the Chardonnays deliver a focused, mineral-driven structure and fresh, layered flavors. This vintage is a testament to the synergy between nature and winemaking, resulting in wines of precision, depth, and grace.

Cheers!

Matt Courtney





## 2023 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY CHARDONNAY

Our Russian River Valley Chardonnay represents the essence of the appellation — a composite of five standout sites: Flora Marie, El Diablo, Ritchie, Banfield, and the Westside Road Vineyard. In 2023, each of these vineyards contributed something vital to the blend: crystalline acidity, layered citrus, coastal salinity, and floral lift. Made with a lighter hand on new oak and built for early enjoyment, this bottling captures the freshness and finesse of a cooler, more traditional vintage.

The nose is bright and vivid, marked by a fleeting touch of reduction that quickly gives way to aromas of green apple skin, crushed limestone, and lemon blossom. On the palate, the wine is taut and energetic, with a core of lemon-lime, white nectarine, and oyster shell. A subtle creaminess from extended lees contact adds texture, while a clean line of saline minerality carries the wine through a long, racy finish.

The 2023 RRV Chardonnay is a snapshot of the vintage — precise, lifted, and eminently drinkable.

Peak drinking window: 2026 through 2032.



## BANFIELD VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

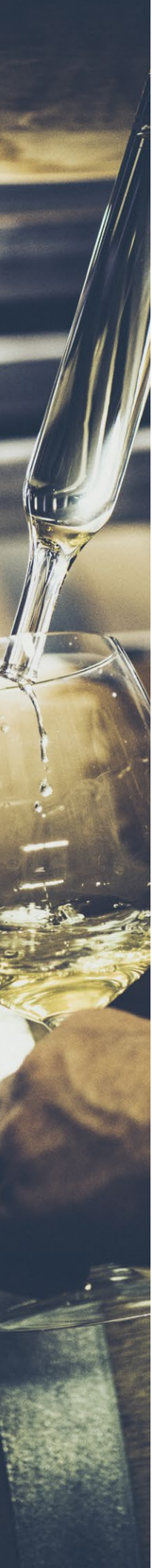
Tucked into a cool pocket of the Russian River Valley, Banfield Vineyard is a living piece of Sonoma history. The Chardonnay block, planted in 1980, is now among the oldest in California — dry-farmed, low-yielding, and remarkably expressive. Year after year, these 45-year-old Old Wente vines deliver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







## 2023 EL DIABLO VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

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.



## 2023 PERLI VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

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.



## 2023 RITCHIE VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

In a growing season that harkened back to the cool-climate vintages of the past, the old vines at Ritchie Vineyard showed exactly why this site belongs in the Grand Cru tier of California Chardonnay. The long, gentle 2023 season — following a winter of abundant rain — gave these nearly 50-year-old “Old Wente” vines the time they needed to slowly develop intense flavor while preserving razor-sharp natural acidity. Planted in the coveted *Goldridge* soil series on a modest, well-drained slope, the oldest block at Ritchie once again delivered a tiny crop of small, power-packed clusters.

The resulting wine is vivid and tightly coiled, with an energy that pulses from the glass. Aromas of white peach, preserved lemon, crushed oyster shell, and spring blossoms lead into a finely etched palate layered with green apple, lime oil, and stone fruit. There’s a gentle creaminess from the lees, but the wine’s core is all about purity and precision. As it unfolds in the glass, deeper notes of chamomile, baked citrus, and a wisp of salted caramel emerge — a nod to the site’s signature richness, kept perfectly in check by the vintage’s structure. The 2023 Ritchie is a wine built for the long haul, offering both clarity and quiet power.

Peak drinking window: 2027 through 2040.



## 2023 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR

The 2023 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir captures the vintage's signature freshness and making this entry-level Pinot Noir an impressive representation of the Russian River Valley's timeless elegance. A vibrant reflection of the long season, this release displays crisp red fruit and high-toned botanical notes, plus a glowing ruby red color. Notes of red cherry, cranberry, and rose petal are elevated by a fresh, tangy mouthfeel and subtle earthy undertones. The extended season allowed us to harvest beautifully mature grapes, while a modest 25% whole-cluster fermentation contributes to the wine's delicate floral aromatics and fine-grained texture. Framed by just 20% new French oak, the wine retains its bright and approachable character, offering complexity without compromising drinkability.

Peak drinking window: 2026 - 2034.



## 2023 PERLI VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Perched high above the Pacific Ocean on the Mendocino Coast at 1,800 feet above sea level, Perli Vineyard is the most visually spectacular site in Arista's portfolio. The steep, 60% slopes face south and provide expansive views of the nearby Sonoma Coast.

Perli's proximity to the famous vineyards that dot the ridgetops of the Sonoma Coast is immediately evident on the glass: Exotic notes of forest floor, tart cherry, rhubarb, and wild berry come alive in the 2023—all hallmarks of Sonoma's rugged coastal vineyards. Yet the wine's grippy tannins and firm acidity speak to the slightly cooler climate of this more northerly, high-elevation site. The 2023 edition of this wine is exceptionally elegant and ethereal, with delicate floral and botanical details and a brilliant translucent ruby color.

Peak drinking window: 2026 – 2034.



## 2023 UV LUCKY WELL VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Lucky Well Vineyard is perched at the very top of Stoetz Ridge, the land mass that divides the true Sonoma Coast from the Russian River Valley. As such, the wine made from this site always expresses qualities of both regions: the high-toned wild berry fruit and earthiness of the Coast, and the Russian River's signature power and richness.

The 2023 vintage brought its own set of challenges and rewards, with a cool, extended growing season and late harvest—allowing for exceptional flavor development and phenolic maturity. The resulting wine is beautiful with its hallmark jewel-like ruby color and effusive scents of fresh alpine strawberry, cola, dried flowers, hard candy, and turned earth. On the palate, vibrant flavors of tart raspberry, Damson plum, and a touch of pomegranate unfold, complemented by a lively, fresh acidity.

Peak drinking window: 2026 - 2038.



## 2023 UV VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

The UV Vineyard sits atop a low lying ridge Goldilocks zone of the Russian River Valley. This is truly the tenderloin of the appellation—to the east lie the warmer lowlands of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and to the west lie the exposed ridge tops of the Sonoma coast. There are many famous Russian River Valley vineyards in this narrow corridor, but maybe none with such a pure example of Goldridge soil—the powdery, nearly white soil that gives Russian River Valley wines their renowned energy and elegance.

Dark garnet in color, the 2023 UV Vineyard Pinot Noir is a perfect example of this balance: A classic Russian River Valley perfume of roses, crushed bramble, candied strawberries, pine forest, and wet stones is accented by a subtle toasty barrel note. On the palate, the wine has a lively, mouth-watering, energetic feel powered by bright but well-integrated natural acidity and fine, powdery tannins. The UV Vineyard Pinot Noir is delicious now, but its firm structure bodes well for aging so be sure to stash a bottle or two in the back of your cellar.

Peak drinking window: 2027 - 2040.





## 2023 ESTATE PINOT NOIR

Juxtaposing lush fruit with restraint, the Estate Pinot Noir represents the purest expression of our ethos as grape growers and winemakers at Arista. Of all the neighborhoods of the Russian River Valley, the Middle Reach has risen to fame as host to the oldest vineyards in the appellation, and also as the source of its most prodigious wines. Our ten acres of Pinot Noir lie in the heart of the Middle Reach, and were planted by legendary vineyard manager Ulises Valdez using 100% heritage selections of Pinot Noir.

The 2023 Estate Pinot Noir is a textbook example of what is possible in this celebrated appellation: Concentrated yet balanced, the wine melds notes of elderberry reduction, raspberry, black cherry, pencil lead, and toasted brioche. Combining fine-grained, polished tannins and well-integrated acidity, plus explosive blue fruit flavors, the 2023 Estate Pinot Noir is undiluted luxury on the palate.

Peak drinking window: 2026 - 2040.