



ARISTA

WINERY

2023 RITCHIE VINEYARD, CHARDONNAY

Russian River Valley



WINERY

The core principle of the winemaking philosophy at Arista is to capture and express the true character and potential of each vineyard. They work with a very carefully chosen handful of grand-cru level Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vineyards, and are uncompromising in their efforts to maximize the full potential of the wines crafted from these special sites.

WINE

Ritchie Vineyard is without a doubt one of California's Grand Cru Chardonnay sites. For nearly 50 years, Kent Ritchie has cultivated this unique slope in the Russian River Valley, yielding legendary wines. We're privileged to work with the vineyard's oldest and highest block, one of the earliest Chardonnay plantings in the area. These ancient vines produce small but intense clusters annually, resulting in consistently balanced, intense, and poised wines.

VINEYARDS

Kent Ritchie has farmed his namesake vineyard since the early 1970s. Located at the intersection of Eastside and Trenton Roads, it sits on a bench where the Russian River, Santa Rosa Plain, and Laguna de Santa Rosa meet. Cool coastal fog and abundant sun, combined with sandy Goldridge soils, make it ideal for Chardonnay—mostly planted to Old Wente Selection, prized for low yields and intense flavor.

VINTAGE NOTES

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.

WINEMAKING

12 months fermentation and aging in barrel followed by 6 months in stainless steel. Unfined, unfiltered.

TASTING NOTES

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.

VINEYARD

Region:	California
Appellation:	Sonoma County
Sub-Appellation:	Russian River Valley
Soil:	Well-drained, sandy, Goldridge soils
Age/Exposure:	52 years old; Southern
Eco-Practices:	Sustainable practices

WINEMAKING

Varietals:	100% Chardonnay
Aging:	12 months in French Oak barrel followed by 6 months in stainless steel

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Yeast:	Native
Alcohol:	13.9%