



RAMEY

Chardonnay

RITCHIE VINEYARD

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

VINEYARD

Appellation	Russian River Valley
Site	Ritchie Vineyard is widely spaced, as was the fashion in the early 70's. These old vines with their gnarly trunks produce tiny quantities of grapes per vine.
Soil	The benchland soil is gravelly, sandy Goldridge Loam, originating from the bed of an ancient inland sea. This soil type is common to great vineyards in this part of the Russian River Valley.
Clone	Old Wente selection
Planted	Our block of Kent Ritchie's vineyard was planted in 1972, so the vines were forty-three years old this vintage.

VINTAGE

Growing Season	Winter 2015 was the warmest on record, resulting in early budbreak. Cooler, wetter weather in spring months slowed development, however, leading to a challenging, extended bloom period. The resulting uneven fruit set translated to a small crop and smaller berries with very concentrated flavors. The exceedingly early budbreak resulted in an equally early harvest.
Harvest Date Brix	August 18 23.8°

WINEMAKING

Varietal Composition	100% Chardonnay
Fermentation	We gently press whole clusters for phenolic delicacy. Native yeast and full native malolactic fermentation take place in barrel, with <i>sur lies bâtonnage</i> .
Aging	After aging 20 months in 21% new French oak barrels (François Frères and Taransaud Beaune), this Chardonnay was fined and settled in tank. It was then bottled without filtration.
Cases Alcohol	898 14.5%
Release Date Price	August 2018 \$65

"Our Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay walks the fine line between richness & delicacy. It has a complex and harmonious mouthfeel that balances power with elegance." —David Ramey