

Wine Spectator

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California CHARDONNAY

ANNUAL TASTING REPORT





“I do think that some folks still characterize California Chardonnay as big, oaky and buttery, but that’s not really true anymore.”

—DAVID RAMEY

David Ramey, an advocate for a more elegant style of Chardonnay, enjoys his wines with his wife, Carla, and their children, Claire and Alan.

2018 Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay 95 Points

2018 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay 95 Points

“Ramey’s two classic 2018s, the complex and minerally Russian River Valley Ritchie Vineyard (95, \$70) and the powerfully sleek and savory Carneros Hyde Vineyard (95, \$70), are hallmarks of the Ramey style, with firm backbones of acidity that should reward long-term aging. Both are also prime examples of the quality that is spreading across Napa and Sonoma, the state’s northern heartland for Chardonnay.”

2018 Fort-Ross Seaview Chardonnay 93 Points

“Some of the most dramatic vineyard settings in the state lie on the northern Sonoma coast. Here, at the edge of the continent, north of the mouth of the Russian River, vertiginous slopes rise a few miles from the rugged coastal strand to 2,000-foot-high elevations. This is the domain of the Fort Ross–Seaview appellation, which covers the southern portion of the area.”