



# RAMEY

*Chardonnay*

RITCHIE VINEYARD

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

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## VINEYARD

<b>Site</b>	Ritchie Vineyard is widely spaced, as was the fashion in the early '70s. These old, gnarly trunked vines produce small clusters with distinct “hen and chick” berry sizes.
<b>Soil</b>	The bench land soil is gravelly, sandy Goldridge Loam, originating from the bed of an ancient inland sea, over volcanic Tuff rock. The vine rows slope down from an old, volcanic vent jutting up through the sandstone.
<b>Clonal Selection</b>	Old Wente selection, with a few scattered Musqué selection vines planted in 1972

## VINTAGE

<b>Growing Season</b>	The second year of drought in a row, winter and spring of 2021 were extremely dry. Variable spring weather stretched out bloom, necessitating careful green drops at veraison. Temperatures stabilized in June, remaining moderate through harvest. Overall, the 2021 season was the coolest, most even growing season since 2018. Yields were average to very low, and especially low for many chardonnay sites.
<b>Harvest Date   Brix</b>	August 20   22.1°

## WINEMAKING

<b>Varietal Composition</b>	100% Chardonnay
<b>Fermentation</b>	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> .
<b>Aging</b>	After aging 20 months in 20% new François Frères French oak barrels, the Chardonnay was traditionally fined for clarity and texture and bottled without filtration in June 2023.
<b>Release Date   Price</b>	March 2024   \$85

*We've worked with the same block of Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay since 2002. The floral character of the small portion of Musqué lends an aromatic lift while the Old Wente provides structure and acidity. – David Ramey*

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