



2019 CHARDONNAY
RICHARD DINNER VINEYARD
SONOMA MOUNTAIN AVA

- Release Date:** April 2022
- Production:** 13 Barrels
- Varietal:** 100% Chardonnay
- Vineyards:** Richard Dinner Vineyard
Sonoma Mountain AVA, Sonoma County
- Winemaking:** Justin and Seana Stephens, Proprietors
Kirk Venge, Winemaker
- Cooperage:** Aged for 16 months in 100% French oak, 40% new.
- Vintage Notes:** 2019 as a vintage was full of unique and unexpected character. A cool spring and late rains well into May had us on edge as we nervously kept vigil against frost and shatter in the vineyards, fearing a repeat of the unseasonably cool 2011 vintage. Thankfully, summer arrived with its desired warmth, but with the harshest heat held at bay, allowing for a long, warm, and even ripening season. The Sonoma Mountain area especially thrived as cooling breezes coming from the bay kept heat spikes to a minimum and allowed for slow, steady ripening and phenolic development.
- Vineyard Notes:** The Richard Dinner vineyard, named after the late owner, a well-known San Francisco businessman and philanthropist, is a total of 27 acres planted exclusively to Chardonnay of which our block is specifically the old Wente clone. It is situated above the town of Glen Ellen in a mixture of clay loam and gravelly volcanic soils, on the northern edge of Sonoma Mountain. The vineyard site rises above the valley to about 800 ft in elevation with exposure to the north, benefiting from ample afternoon shade and cooling breezes coming from the San Pablo Bay.
- Tasting Notes:** On the nose, rich hints of lychee, honeysuckle, orange blossom and meyer lemon are framed by subtle French oak driven vanilla and caramel aromatics. Once tasted, immediate flavors of lemon curd, orange zest and passion fruit rise up and are met by the bright acidity which lingers alongside the fruit to provide balance and create a pleasant mouthwatering effect.
- Aging Advice:** Enjoy readily in its youth, slightly chilled or at cellar temperature for full expression. For those who enjoy mature white wines, age confidently for 5+ years.