



2021 CHARDONNAY
RICHARD DINNER VINEYARD
SONOMA MOUNTAIN AVA

- Release Date:** April 2023
- Production:** 11 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:** The 2021 vintage will be remembered as a drought year for the valley, with the resulting drop in yields, however the overall quality of the vintage is superb thanks to those smaller berries bringing an increased concentration of both fruit and structure. Early spring saw periods of unseasonable warmth alongside the occasional cool night which did create some frost concerns, but thankfully a little vigilance in the vineyards kept any damage at bay. Summer and early fall provided heat that cycled predictably between warming days and cooling nights which allowed for a very smooth and orderly harvest season about 1-2 weeks earlier than average.
- 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:** The nose is tropical and lush with hints of pineapple, mandarin orange, lemon crème brûlée and a hint of brioche. On the palate, alongside a core of Meyer lemon, the tropical fruit character delivers Ataulfo mango and guava notes alongside orange scone and a touch of caramel. The overall acidity ensures wonderful balance and an inviting structure that maintains brightness throughout the palate into a long vibrant finish.
- Aging Advice:** Enjoy readily in its youth, slightly chilled or at cellar temperature for full expression. 2021 will be an excellent aging vintage for whites, so those who enjoy mature white wines, age confidently for 5-7 years.