

# PAUL HOBBS

---

## 2021 CHARDONNAY GEORGE MENINI ESTATE RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

### VINEYARD

- Owner: Paul Hobbs Winery
- Sourced from: c7, a8, a9, a10, c4
- Clonal selection: Hyde-Wente, Mt. Eden, 548
- Rootstock: 420a, swz, rg
- Plant date: 2015
- Soils: Goldridge sandy loam
- Exposure: Eastern aspect
- Trellis and pruning: cane pruned, vertical shoot positioned (vsp)
- Yield: 5.4 tons/acre

### GROWING SEASON

One of the best vintages in recent memory, 2021 will be remembered for its intensely flavored berries, a smooth harvest and most importantly, exquisitely balanced, nuanced, and vivid wines. The season began with historically low rainfall which, coupled with a cold winter, delayed bud break. However, despite the cooler start to the year, the remainder of the season proved to be temperate with no relevant unfavorable weather events. Warm temps and mild May weather conditions, for example, favored a compact bloom and an extremely uniform fruit set with highly desirable small berries and moderately sized, well-spaced clusters. Meanwhile, summer's long, cool mornings and warm afternoons permitted the fruit on the vine to take a slow, leisurely ride to full maturity—excellent for the physiological fruit development we prize. Harvest kicked-off punctually at 12:01 am, September 6, and after six glorious weeks, blessed our house with a fine crop of remarkably delicious, energetic, young wines.

### HARVEST

- Hand-harvested at night, shears only
- Harvest date: September 7 - 18

### WINEMAKING

- Whole cluster pressed while still cold from the field
- Barrel fermented with indigenous yeasts
- Spontaneous malolactic fermentation
- Sur lie aging, biweekly bâtonnage
- Aged 9 months in French oak barrels; 27% new
- Coopers: Leroi, Taransaud, Billon, Louis Latour
- Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered; August 2022

### TASTING NOTES

Located on the southwestern edge of the Russian River Valley appellation in an area known as the Sebastopol Hills, this Chardonnay from George Menini Estate displays pale straw in color and boasts an elixir of white and yellow florals, tart yellow apple, bartlett pear, and baking spice. A precise yet supple wine with notes of juicy Gravenstein apple, vibrant sea salt, and crushed rock, complemented by a cool-climate zing of acidity. An impressive level of complexity for a young vineyard.