

PAUL HOBBS

2021 CHARDONNAY

EDWARD JAMES ESTATE

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

VINEYARD

- Clonal selection: Hyde-Wente
- Rootstock: 420a
- Plant date: 2007
- Soils: Goldridge fine sandy loam
- Exposure: 2-9% slopes, nearly full exposure
- Trellis and pruning: vertical shoot positioned (vsp), bilateral cane

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 9

WINEMAKING

- Whole cluster pressed while still cold from the field
- Indigenous yeast fermentation in barrel
- Spontaneous malolactic fermentation
- Sur lie aging, biweekly bâtonnage
- Aged 15 months in French oak barrels; 38% new
- Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered; January 2023

TASTING NOTES

Luminescent pale gold in color, the 2021 vintage from the Russian River Valley presents aromas of white peach, lemon zest, and honeysuckle. This bright yet full-bodied wine reveals white fig, lemon crème, and Golden Delicious apple, all framed by a delicate minerality on the palate. Backed by vibrant acidity, the elegant, creamy finish is long and persistent with an accompanying tension and unmistakable energy.