

CHARDONNAY
CHALK HILL

Vintage: 2004

RODNEY STRONG

Reserve Chardonnay

“Powerful aromas
of vanilla, baked
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join stone fruits
and toasty oak
on the palate.”

RICK SAYRE, WINEMAKER

Rick Sayre



Place matters. *Try ours.*

Vintage: 2004

RODNEY STRONG VINEYARDS
2004 CHARDONNAY RESERVE
CHALK HILL SONOMA COUNTY

Winemaker:	Rick Sayre
Blend:	100% Chardonnay
Appellation:	Chalk Hill
Alcohol:	14.4%
Total Acidity:	0.55 gm/100ml
pH:	3.39
Residual Sugar:	0.08%
Cellar & Fermentation:	100% barrel fermented in 78% French oak barrels (36% new), and 22% seasoned European oak barrels 100% malolactic, aged 17 months

History

Our founder Rod Strong spearheaded the establishment of the Chalk Hill appellation in 1983. He recognized the region as distinct from the rest of Russian River Valley for the unique chalky white soils, which impart a subtle mineral character to wines grown there.

Each “block” from within each chardonnay vineyard, was harvested separately, vinified separately and evaluated individually as a potential Reserve component.

In the Vineyards

The 2004 vintage began with an early bud break during an unseasonably warm March, followed by a contrastingly cool April. After a normal May and June, July and the first part of August were on the cool side, but by the end of August, harvest was well underway as a heat spell encouraged ripening. The result was an early completion of harvest with all of our chardonnay in by September 16th.

Tasting Notes

Each Chardonnay vineyard, and each “block” from within each vineyard, was harvested separately, vinified separately and evaluated individually as a potential Reserve component. After fermenting in new French oak barrels, this wine was aged “sur lie”, or on its spent yeast cells, for 10 months. Frequent stirring of these lees added a creamy texture to an already full-bodied wine, making for a rich, plush mouth feel. Powerful aromas of vanilla, baked apple and spice join stone fruits and toasty oak on the palate, adding up to a compelling and thoroughly satisfying experience for true Chardonnay lovers.



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