

Russian River Valley

2023 CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKERS	Justin Seidenfeld
ALCOHOL	13.5%
TA	0.64 g/100mL
PH	3.08
APPELLATION	100% Russian River Valley
VARIETAL	100% Chardonnay
CELLAR & FERMENTATION	12 months in 100% French oak barrels, 35% new
VINEYARD	River West Vineyard

OUR STORY

We at Rodney Strong are united by our passion for crafting the highest quality wines from the very best vineyards across Sonoma County. With over 60 years of family ownership and 1158 acres of estate vineyards, we exemplify what it means to be world class Sonoma quality. We are united by our passion for Sonoma County, and the belief that nothing brings people together better than sharing superb experiences with a great bottle of Rodney Strong wine.

HISTORY

Our founder Rod Strong was among the first to recognize the Russian River Valley as an ideal place to plant Chardonnay. Our River West Vineyard is located on Westside Road, on a low riverside bench, in the far northern end of the Russian River Valley. The terrain is gently sloping and beautifully diverse, allowing us to meticulously plant each block to highlight the unique characteristics of a varietal. The soil is predominantly Yolo sandy-silt loam with pockets of gravelly Cortina, both well-draining soils that create an ideal atmosphere for beautifully developed grapes. The result is a delicious Chardonnay that is a true representation of one of our winemaker's most loved sites.

THE VINTAGE AND VINEYARD

The 2023 vintage is not one we will soon forget. A cool and wet winter led to a budbreak 2-3 weeks later than average. Daytime temperatures throughout the growing season continued to be unusually cool, with averages in the low 70s and the warmest days just reaching into the mid 80s. This led to an exceptionally late harvest – over a full month later than 2022 on average, offering the grapes an extended hang time to develop extraordinary complexity and concentration. The evening coastal breezes and morning fog blanketing the Russian River Valley preserved fresh acidity and created beautiful balance with the season's generous ripe fruit flavors.

TASTING

An energetic expression of the Russian River Valley showing bright yellow peach and yuzu citrus aromas. On the palate, just ripe Bartlett pears with a kiss of crème brûlée from sur lie aging in carefully selected French oak barrels. Soft acidity uplifts the wine's full, creamy midpalate. Enjoy this Chardonnay with soft cheeses, roasted chicken and filet mignon.

