

# brick & mortar

- est. 2011 -

2015  
chardonnay  
sweetwater springs vineyard  
russian river valley



## TECHNICAL NOTES:

Vineyard Designate: Sweetwater Springs Vineyard  
AVA: Russian River Valley  
Production: 140 cases  
Alcohol: 13.5%  
Release Date: May 15th, 2017

## VINEYARD

Sweetwater Springs Vineyard is located on Westside Road in the heart of the Russian River Valley. With its temperate climate of mild days and cold nights due to its proximity to the Russian River, Sweetwater Springs Vineyard is an optimal site for our Russian River Chardonnay.

Planted on a lower swale next to the small creek running through the property, the Sweetwater Springs Vineyard Chardonnay is 100% Dijon Clone 548. Known for its high fruit quality and aging potential, Clone 548 exhibits bright apple notes, as well as deep stone fruits. The cold microclimate of this block further exemplifies the fresh, bright natural acidity of Clone 548 as well as the site as a whole - the trademark for our Sweetwater Springs Vineyard Chardonnay.

## VINTAGE

2015 was a challenge. A very cool May led to significant shatter within the clusters, reducing yields by up to 40-50% in some Chardonnay sites in the Russian River Valley. Furthermore, a warm summer with a few heat spikes late in the season, led to drier conditions for the vines and led to a lighter yet much more intense crop. 2015 will be remembered as a vintage of wines with fantastic quality, just not a lot of it.

## WINEMAKING

We strive to allow the site to shine in every wine we produce. The Chardonnay is whole-cluster pressed and allowed to settle via gravity before being transferred to french oak barrels (40% new). Native primary and fermentation occur lasting upwards of six months. No malolactic fermentation nor *bâtonnage* is performed to the barrels in order to preserve a pure expression of the vineyard, as the intense sunlight of the site creates incredible texture in the fruit. Our Chardonnay is aged in barrels for ten months before a light fining and filtration prior to bottling.

## WINE

The 2015 Sweetwater Springs Vineyard Chardonnay expresses intense aromas of crushed rock, chalk, green almond and hawthorn. The palate is alluring and nervy; it possesses a bright, well-structured body with concentrated minerality and a lingering racy acidity. This is a Chardonnay with great depth and texture while being light on its feet, and is expected to age gracefully for the next 8-10 years.

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