



D U M O L

*2014 en-primeur offer*

*All wines available Autumn 2017*



---

## REFLECTIONS ON THE 2014 VINTAGE

As grape growers and winemakers, we have a very strong and consistent stylistic vision for our wines. That to me is critical. Not an individual wine's fruit flavor – that comes from the variety and climate – but its build, its structure, the way it communicates its qualities and origins, its core essence – which comes more from the site and soil, the specific plant material and how you farm. The 2014 vintage is the most perfect expression of this vision that we've achieved to date. Each wine hits the mark in a way that seems effortless. There's no sense that any of these wines are forced or constructed. I feel like twenty years of hard work is represented in these wines and luckily we'll get to enjoy them over the next twenty years.

So why is this such a wonderful vintage? Certainly the ongoing drought conditions had a sizeable effect, ensuring the vines worked hard toward the end of their growth phase, concentrating their energy on the ripening fruit. Luckily February was very wet, filling the soil profile – and these marine sandstone soils are so good at holding onto the water and dosing it out steadily over the summer, limiting the need to irrigate. This keeps berry size small and grape skins full of aroma and flavor. The rapid bloom cycle points to the purity of the wines but also the compact harvest – when the vines bloom as one, they ripen as one and this was our most rapid harvest ever: twenty two vineyards between August 19th and October 7th. Finally, the mild August and September harvest conditions really 'made' the vintage allowing us to retain maximum freshness and vibrancy, essential for our style.

The stars of the vintage are the pinot wines – it's my favorite set of wines we've produced. Each bottling is so distinct and can stand on its own merits. They are wines of purity and site, with focused clarity and poise and detail - transparent and fine. If I had to choose, I would compare them most closely to 2010, but this group has more finesse, more energy and intensity, slightly less overt power, less sweet fruit, more savory complexity.

---

They possess a deepness and clarity of flavor that comes from pedigree vine selections planted on free-draining upland hillside soils ensuring the vines work hard to produce small intense grapes full of character. I recommend drinking the pinots in this order: RRV, Eoin, Connor, Ryan, Aidan, Estate and Finn. These wines will drink beautifully young, middle-aged or old – they're spectacular.

The chardonnay vintage is slightly less fruit-driven than the broad, rich 2013 set of wines. There's a beautiful mild austerity to the wines in their current youthful state. They're tightly coiled, chiseled and full of mineral power and deep fruit, just waiting to uncurl and broaden. It's a wonderful vintage if, like me, you like wines of clarity and detail and crispness. There's loads of coastal Sonoma fruit in each wine but the savory character is elevated this year giving the wines their strong vintage signature. There's also intense, livewire acidity. Each vineyard, and the RRV blend, expresses its origins masterfully and these wines will age longer than we will allow them to. If you want to drink them young for their zesty youthful intensity – and I will be – you might decant them for an hour to hasten their development. I recommend drinking the chardonnays in this order: RRV, Chloe, Clare, Isobel and Estate.

It's a brilliant syrah vintage, in line with 2012 and 2013 for pure quality. Just like the other varieties, there's a similar vintage signature to the wines: deep fruit, savory complexity and vineyard essence. It was clear that this would be a spectacular vintage when the grapes began to arrive in the winery. Their quality was immediately apparent. The wines have turned out even better than anticipated though. Our small winemaking team is in love with these three wines and all three are on a quality par so you can drink them in any order. Again they will age longer than we have patience for.

One striking aspect of the vintage is how well all the wines hold up in a partial bottle over time. Not just one day to the next, but over multiple days. They remain fresh and lively even as the fruit deepens and the richness expands. The purity and vineyard character of each wine steadily comes forward and increases each day. That's a great sign of quality and an indication of strong aging potential. Also note the slight green tinge to the whites – a telltale sign they will develop in the cellar.

Production levels are healthy for the wines but some of the smaller bottlings will sell out quickly given the stature of the vintage and the early buzz for coastal Sonoma in the wine press and trade. If you've never bought magnums before, this is the vintage to test the waters – a well-stored pinot magnum will last for twenty years and provide wonderful drinking memories. You may want to stock up on 2014 as 2015 is a tiny vintage, affected by cold weather at bloom – the lowest yielding vintage for years, maybe even a generation – but thankfully very high quality too.

---

The tasting notes that follow are from July 2016. Please refer to the individual pages for specific drinking windows and notes on each wine. I hope you enjoy this vintage and please let us know your interpretations of the wines.



*Andy Smith, Winemaker - Viticulturist - Proprietor, DuMOL*





# *Spring*

*v.2014*

---

*It is with our warmest wishes  
that our 2014 wines bring you,  
your family and friends many  
memorable and enjoyable moments.*

---

---

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

---



*Finn  
2014*

### RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR

*Release Date: November 2016*

- 
- **8 x Cases (6x75cl) Finn Pinot Noir £410.00 IB per case  
(Production: 460 cases)**

**Lisa Perrotti-Brown (eRobertParker.com)** - 97 Points *"Blended of 55% DuMOL Estate vineyard and 45% Occidental Road vineyards, the 2014 Pinot Noir Finn has a pale to medium ruby-purple color and notes of black cherries, black raspberries and anise plus underlying suggestions of yeast, potpourri, underbrush and cedar. Medium to full-bodied with plenty of opulent fruit on offer, it has a seamless backbone of very fine tannins and gorgeous freshness, finishing long and minerally"*

[Buy Now](#)

#### APPELLATION:

Russian River Valley – 55% DuMOL O'Connell Estate & 45% Occidental Road Vineyard

#### CLONES:

Multi-clonal field blend

#### VINE AGE:

10 & 20 years

#### BARREL AGING:

15 months in 45% new French oak barrels from Tonnelleries ACF, Ermitage & Mercurey.

#### PRODUCTION:

460 cases of 750ml

Deep complex multi-dimensional aromas. Soaring red and black fruits. Truffle, tangy orange peel, graphite, fresh soil and woody notes. Beautiful fruit purity on entry. Thrilling, electric intensity. Spice cake, nutmeg and beetroot complexity.

Buoyant volume and real depth of flavor. Long silky tannins, bright acidity and roasted malt, mushroom and charcoal finishing nuances. Here we have the wine of the vintage, one of the finest single wines we've ever bottled, and a DuMOL classic in the making. I expect to be enjoying this one for the next 12+ years. I compare it most closely to our 2002 Finn bottling that was singing at Christmas 2015 from a perfectly-stored 3-liter bottle. There's a completeness to this wine that is hard to achieve in any but the finest vintages, and a level of pedigree and effortless quality that is rarely matched. In no way, however, is this a 'big' wine - that's not its raison d'être. Rather, it's a wine of polish, breed and classical balance, with a precision of flavor and purity of western Russian River character that's the essence and focus of our work here. It's a blend of vines grown on shallow marine sandstone and richer claybased soils and that's reflected in its multi-faceted character – it's complete and integrated, elegant and fine, detailed and deep. I recommend you buy a magnum and try to employ some degree of patience. The rewards will be many. Do not miss out.

A dynamic wine of unmatched clarity, depth of flavor and length of delivery.

---

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

---



*Ryan*

WIDDOES VINEYARD

*2014*

**RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR**

*Release Date: November 2016*

- 
- **10 x Cases (6x75cl) Ryan Pinot Noir @ £355.00 IB per case  
(Production: 840 cases)**

**Lisa Perrotti-Brown (eRobertParker.com)**- 95 Points *"Pale to medium ruby-purple colored, the 2014 Pinot Noir Ryan Widdoes Vineyard has a rather subdued, earthy nose of fungi and fallen leaves over red and black cherries and a waft of lavender. The medium to full-bodied palate is built like a brick house with a solid frame of grainy tannins and lively acid holding the muscular fruit together beautifully, and texturing the long, earthy finish. It needs another 1-2 years in bottle and should cellar for 12+ years thereafter"*

[Buy Now](#)

**APPELLATION:**

*Russian River Valley – Widdoes Vineyard*

**CLONES:**

*Martini*

**VINE AGE:**

*30 years*

**BARREL AGING:**

*15 months in 45% new French oak barrels from Tonnellerie Remond.*

**PRODUCTION:**

*840 cases of 750ml*

Dark brooding fruit flavors: black raspberry and vineyard-typical black cherry compote. Anise, rosemary and mint leaf then smoked meat. Bold fruit entry, obvious concentration and density but always fresh and pure. Blackberry sweetness, rich and broad, palate-staining. Lingering cherry pit and bergamot tea finish.

This is the darkest and deepest and most fruit-driven of our 2014 pinots, the most overtly Californian in style and substance – so probably the most popular! We've produced wine from these thirty year old vines since 1996 so have a level of intimacy with them that is unrivalled – we can predict how they will perform each season based upon the amount of winter rain they receive and that's why this wine is so consistent each year. In a dry early vintage this cool, north-facing hillside will ripen a little later than other warmer sites but it will use that extra maturation time to produce small dark powerful grapes that ooze richness and depth. This is not a wine harvested at higher ripeness - it's no higher in alcohol than its stable mates – but it's a product of non-irrigated old vines with a substantial level of 'vine extract' that age brings. The wine, most similar in style to the 2010 bottling, will naturally find many fans and has a long life ahead of it – 10-12 years will be no problem. A powerful muscular wine with layers of deep fruit and classic Californian broad texture, but always nuanced, complex and fresh, never heavy or simple.

---

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

---



2014

### NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Release Date: November 2016

- 
- **8 x Cases (6x75cl) Cabernet Sauvignon @ £409.50 IB per Case  
(Production: 600 cases)**

**Lisa Perrotti-Brown (eRobertParker.com)** - 95+ Points *"This is the first release of this wine, sourced from Coombsville and Spring Mountain AVAs. Deep garnet-purple colored, the nose of the 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley is incredibly lifted and perfumed with notes of violets and roses over a core of crushed red and black currants, blackberries and cigar box. The palate offers great depth with layers of vibrant black and red berry flavors and wonderfully ripe, grainy tannins to support, finishing long and lively. While very tempting to drink now, I recommend readers forget it for 3-4 years and then drink for the next 25+"*

Buy Now

#### APPELLATION:

Napa Valley, 2-vineyard blend –  
50% Ballard Vineyard/Spring Mountain & 50% Rewa Vineyard/Coombsville

#### CLONES:

4 & 337

#### VINE AGE:

12 and 14 years

#### BARREL AGING:

20 months in 65% new French oak barrels from Tonnelleries ACF & Bossuet.

#### PRODUCTION:

600 cases of 750ml

Opaque dark purple color. Deep, pure, dark aromas: cassis, blackberry and plum. Intensely floral with savory complexity: sage, pine needle, cedar and sweet tobacco. Beautifully integrated wine, layered and textured with a long sleek flavor delivery along the entire arc of the palate. Ripe blue and black fruits, building density, sweet chewy tannins with mineral freshness on the lively supple finish. Lingering licorice, floral gravelly lift. Demonstrating the gorgeous purity that is the hallmark of this elegant vintage, our 2014 Napa Cabernet fits perfectly into the DuMOL stylistic playbook. It's a blend of two special vineyards that complement each other effortlessly. Ballard, planted in iron-rich red volcanic soils at 1,800 feet atop Spring Mountain, is dense and chewy with complex earth and herb aromas, dark black fruits and prominent structure. Rewa, planted on shallow rocky white volcanic ash in the cool Coombsville district, is exotically floral, richly textured with layered suppleness. A beautifully seamless combination. The wine is lavishly aromatic – simultaneously exotic and complex – and these characters never fade, even after three days from a partial bottle. The wine's weight and density build gradually as it opens in the glass so that rich layers of blackberry jam fruit take hold and absorb the wine's solid structure. But at all times the wine retains its cool climate mineral streak – dark, fresh and lively with pinpoint focus and livewire intensity. Really delicious.

The wine is lavishly aromatic – simultaneously exotic and complex – and these characters never fade, even after three days from a partial bottle. The wine's weight and density build gradually as it opens in the glass so that rich layers of blackberry jam fruit take hold and absorb the wine's solid structure. But at all times the wine retains its cool climate mineral streak – dark, fresh and lively with pinpoint focus and livewire intensity. Really delicious. You can age this for 10+ years and it will continue to put on weight in the bottle, but the nature of the vintage is upfront pleasure, so no need to wait and don't be afraid to drink on release.



*Jack Roberts Run*

ESTATE VINEYARD

*2014*

**SONOMA COAST SYRAH**

*Release Date: November 2016*

- **10 x Cases (6x75cl) Jack Roberts Run Syrah @ £350.00 IB per case  
(Production: 600 cases)**

**Antonio Galloni** - 95 Points *"The 2014 Jack Robert's Run is powerful, dense and explosive. The 50% whole clusters add striking aromatic top notes to a core of red cherry jam, rose petal and wild flowers. Soft, open-knit and beautifully layered through, the 2014 possesses exceptional balance and class through and through."*

[Buy Now](#)

---

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

---

**APPELLATION:**

*Sonoma Coast - DuMOL Estate*

**CLONES:**

*Estrella River & Syrah Noir + 8% Viognier co-fermented*

**VINE AGE:**

*14 years*

**BARREL AGING:**

*16 months in 30% new French oak hogsheads from Tonnellerie Ermitage & a Tuscan clay amphora.*

**PRODUCTION:**

*600 cases of 750ml*

Wildly aromatic, deep and vivid. Black and blue fruits, white and black pepper, sage and anise, thyme blossom, lilacs and violet. Blackberry liqueur and spicy plum compote palate, intense and broad. Great floral inner mouth perfume. Bold, succulent layers of billowing texture then dense, chewy, cocoa-dusted tannins, voluptuous and gripping. Rising, dominant fruit-filled finish.

Our championing of coastal Sonoma Syrah continues to march. If you have never tried this bottling, you are missing out on one of our great 'insider wines' – a gorgeously appealing Syrah that stands at the top of the quality hierarchy for the vintage. It's true coastal Syrah from a late-ripening parcel sitting eight miles from the ocean on deep sandy/clay soils that contain high levels of organic matter. It's this combination of healthy soils, mature vines and the cool climate that allow us to retain the intricate array of delicate Syrah aromas that are lost in leaner soils and warmer climates. And it's this astonishing complexity of aroma and flavor that really drives the wine. We build in complexity in other ways too: co-fermentation with Viognier, fifty percent whole clusters in the fermenter and partial aging in a Tuscan clay amphora. It's difficult to communicate the level of intensity this wine offers, suffice to say it's truly compelling, and in this particular vintage, it's a world class expression of this wildly aromatic, floral/ savory variety. We choose to limit production of this wine, blending most of it into the RRV, so do not miss out. Cool climate Syrah of power and intensity, delicacy and concentration. Aromatic, fruit and savory elements in gorgeous harmony.





*Lia*

*2014*

## RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY VIOGNIER

*Release Date: November 2016*

- **10 x Cases (6x75cl) Viognier Lia @ £242.50 IB per case  
(Production: 310 cases)**

**Andy Smith Winemaker – Viticulturist, DuMOL** *“Beautiful aromatics: honeysuckle, white blossom, white nectarine and minerals. Dynamic palate entry with a beautiful intertwining of delicate fruit & acid tension. Develops to richer apricot jam and orange marmalade with a savory green olive and sage edge. Vanilla crème as the leesy texture builds, broad and silky. Clean finish with intense grapefruit peel and bright acidity. Beautiful complex wine, classic apricot and nectarine richness, focused savory elements, subtle viscosity & pleasingly bitter grapefruit pith finish.”*

Buy Now

## WINEMAKER’S NOTES

**APPELLATION:**

*Russian River Valley – 55% Hoppe Kelly & 45% Dutton-Gregori Vineyards*

**CLONES:**

*#1*

**VINE AGE:**

*14 & 16 years*

**BARREL AGING:**

*11 months in 10% new French oak hogsheads from Tonnellerie Ermitage then 3 months settling in tank.*

**PRODUCTION:**

*310 cases of 750ml*

A near-perfect continuation from our highly-lauded 2013 bottling, this new vintage reflects the nature of the season, a little more savory-driven, a little less overtly fruity than 2013. Initially demure and poised, it begins fresh and linear before the natural fruit extract takes hold. Gorgeous texture on the mid-palate, graceful, silky and fine. The rich fruit notes are balanced by fresh herb and mineral character. Uncommon age ability for a Californian Viognier, you can drink this from release for four or five years. Like all our chardonnay wines, don't serve this too cold.



*Estate Vineyard*  
*2014*

**SONOMA COAST CHARDONNAY**

*Release Date: November 2016*

- **10 x Cases (6x75cl) Estate Chardonnay @ £300.00 IB per case  
(Production: 710 cases)**

**Lisa Perrotti-Brown (eRobertParker.com)** - 96+ *"The 2014 Chardonnay Estate Vineyard reveals very pretty notes of peach blossoms and candied ginger over a core of nectarines, acacia honey, baking bread and marzipan. Medium-bodied with a silken texture and wonderful intensity of yeasty/savory flavors, it has a great frame of freshness and epic length. A beautiful, truly elegant style"*

[Buy Now](#)

---

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

---

**APPELLATION:**

*Sonoma Coast – DuMOL O'Connell Estate Vineyard*

**CLONES:**

*Mount Eden & Hyde-Wente*

**VINE AGE:**

*9 years*

**BARREL AGING:**

*12 months in 40% new French oak barrels from Atelier Centre France then 6 months settling in tank.*

**PRODUCTION:**

*710 cases of 750ml*

Brilliant pale straw color with a green tinge. Intense mineral/slate aromas. Fennel, green olive, sweet mint and quinine. Honey dew melon and lemongrass, some earth tones. Palate is fruitier than the aromas suggest. Lime juice and quince, deep clarity of flavor, hazelnut and lanolin. Piercing, livewire acidity draws out the finish. Great thrust and persistence. Almost a replica of the 2013 vintage, a wine that features prominently on Michelin-starred restaurant wine lists because it flickers stylistically between Europe and California, and that appeals to our sommelier friends. The new vintage is a little more reserved and will need more time to show fully, but that's the overall nature of this vintage – restrained power, a whisper, not a foghorn. Make no mistake though, there's deep flavor, fruit extract and vineyard character to burn here, it's just wrapped up in precise, tense acidity that courses through this wine from start to long, mineral-stained finish. Just like all our wines, this is a product of its vineyard site and soil but the high-density planting format of our Estate has a secondary influence that traditionally spaced vineyards cannot replicate. Specifically, the reduced direct sunlight on the clusters themselves preserves the entire spectrum of intense savory elements that really comprise the essence of this wine. It makes all the expensive, back breaking and time consuming handwork, that such a dense planting demands, completely worthwhile.

A highly detailed, nuanced and focused wine with prominent aromatic savory elements and unfolding layers of fruit richness. Great natural acidity and drive.



*Chloe*

RITCHIE-LORENZO OLD VINES

*2014*

**RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY CHARDONNAY**

*Release Date: November 2016*

- 
- **10 x Cases (6x75cl) Chloe Chardonnay @ £300.00 IB per case  
(Production: 820 cases)**

**Lisa Perrotti-Brown (eRobertParker.com)** - *95 Points* "The 2014 Chardonnay Chloe gives expressive guava, pink grapefruit and pineapple notes with touches of candied ginger, praline and brioche. Medium to full-bodied with a beautifully oily texture and packed with tropical fruit flavors, it finishes long and toasty"

Buy Now

---

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

---

**APPELLATION:**

*Russian River Valley – 66% Ritchie & 34% Lorenzo Vineyards*

**CLONES:**

*Old Wente*

**VINE AGE:**

*40 & 42 years*

**BARREL AGING:**

*12 months in 40% new French oak barrels from Tonnelleries Chassin & ACF then 6 months settling in tank.*

**PRODUCTION:**

*820 cases of 750ml*

Orange blossom, orange marmalade, peach and nectarine, prosciutto and melon. Oyster shell freshness and wet stone minerals. Sweet and pliant fruit-filled palate. Real depth and extract. Honey and baking spice. The deep, deep flavors linger long on the layered rising whistle-clean finish. Great pedigree. As usual the broadest, richest and most Californian of our four classic designate chardonnays, and in some stylistic regards, the natural partner to Ryan Pinot Noir – why not pair them together over a long leisurely dinner? There's a power here and deep booming resonance that comes from low-yielding old vines planted in shallow marine-based soils with just the right amount of clay to give body and roundness. It's a very aristocratic wine which is why there's a legion of other producers lining up to work with these two special vineyards, such is their quality and reputation. We are among the first to harvest our respective section of each vineyard as we're focused on a style that harmonizes the broad richness these vines naturally wish to produce, with the delicate savory elements that provide lift, freshness and detail. This way the final wine doesn't become heavy or fat at all. We get the best of both worlds, depth and character but airy and intense – all in proportion, no awkward edges. Rich, broad and powerful fruit-driven wine with old vine sinew and a clean mineral spine. Lots of nuance and detail.



*Clare*  
HYDE VINEYARD  
*2014*

**CARNEROS NAPA VALLEY CHARDONNAY**

*Release Date: November 2016*

- **10 x Cases (6x75cl) Chloe Chardonnay @ £295.00 IB per case  
(Production: 690 cases)**

**Lisa Perrotti-Brown (eRobertParker.com)** - 95 Points *"The 2014 Chardonnay Clare has a white peach, preserved lemons and yuzu-scented nose with underlying touches of cedar, buttered toast and shaved almonds. The palate is bold and intensely fruited with a pleasant oiliness, yet it is medium-bodied, finishing long with lovely purity."*

[Buy Now](#)

---

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

---

**APPELLATION:**

*Carneros-Napa Valley – Hyde Vineyard*

**CLONES:**

*Old Wente*

**VINE AGE:**

*22 years*

**BARREL AGING:**

*12 months in 40% new French oak barrels from Tonnellerie Chassin then 6 months settling in tank.*

**PRODUCTION:**

*690 cases of 750ml*

Our special 3.5-acre parcel of vines at Hyde Vineyard is now in its prime production/quality window at twenty two years of age. It's among the very earliest ripening blocks at the vineyard, which typically means the vines are particularly well-balanced, in harmonious equilibrium with their environment. Parcels such as this always seem to produce the finest most evocative wines. It's a more fruit-driven wine than the epically-mineral 2013 bottling, but you'll find it's still drenched in river pebble intensity and saline/quinine freshness. The crop was healthy this year so we made a very strict cellar selection, after twelve month's barrel aging, ultimately bottling only the most expressive barrels, sixty-three percent of the total production. I expect this will age longer than anyone has the patience for, between ten and twelve years. When a young wine tastes so good as this...why wait? Serve close to room temperature.

Brilliant pale straw color with a green tinge. Explosive aromatics: lemon zest, white nectarine, geranium, spearmint, thyme and oyster shell. Great clarity and direct focus. Deep precise flavors. Mineral, stream bed and crisp apple. Dry, tangy and pulsating. Really opens up as it grows in the glass. Oatmeal and almond paste, body and richness. Weighty, broad deep savory finish, rising grapefruit character. Incredibly dynamic wine – mineral, tense and deep with building fruit richness. A livewire with long cellaring potential.

---

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

---



*Isobel*  
CHARLES HEINTZ VINEYARD  
*2014*  
SONOMA COAST CHARDONNAY

*Release Date: November 2016*

- 
- **10 x Cases (6x75cl) Isobel Charles Heintz Vineyard Chardonnay @ £300.00 IB per case (Production: 840 cases)**

**Lisa Perrotti-Brown (eRobertParker.com)** - 94 Points *"The 2014 Chardonnay Isobel Charles Heintz Vineyard has a very earthy/savory nose with notes of fallen leaves and moss over a core of lemon curd and grapefruit peel. The medium-bodied palate has a wonderful intensity of citrus and earthy flavors supported by lively acidity, finishing long with an herbal lift"*

[Buy Now](#)

**APPELLATION:**

*Sonoma Coast – Charles Heintz Vineyard*

**CLONES:**

*#4*

**VINE AGE:**

*33 years*

**BARREL AGING:**

*12 months in 35% new French oak hogsheads from Tonnelleries Ermitage & ACF then 6 months settling in tank.*

**PRODUCTION:**

*840 cases of 750ml*

Quite a savory vintage for Isobel this year, the most I can remember, and I've worked with these vines at Charles Heintz Vineyard since 1998. Of course there's an abundance of cool climate fruit present, for which this wonderful vineyard is renowned, but at this youthful stage, it certainly takes a back seat to the wine's botanical profile. But this can be typical in cooler vintages here. We share this vineyard with a number of other producers but are the only one to source from both the western sandy soils and the richer clay soils in the eastern block. The leaner savory elements originate in the sandy parcel while the clay fills in the middle and establishes the wine's powerful foundation. The clay block is the senior partner this vintage. Tasting the wine, it clearly needs some time to deepen, so wait to open these until summer 2017. Its full potential may take 3-5 years to be realized. Don't doubt its quality though, this vineyard has pedigree to burn.

Sea spray, green olive, cheese rind, freshly cut grass and sage aromas. Palate richness expands: citrus oil, white stone fruits and honey. Intense, mineral and precise. Fine interplay between botanical, floral and fruit elements – chamomile, white blossom and meyer lemon. Lovely balance and fine length. Subtle leesy texture builds density. Brisk finishing acidity. Long star anise/lemongrass finish. Beautiful, savory, focused wine with subtle depth and gradually evolving texture. Pinpoint coastal signature.



2014

## RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY CHARDONNAY

Release Date: June 2016

- 20 x Cases (6x75cl) Russian River Chardonnay @ £225.00 IB per case

**Lisa Perrotti-Brown (eRobertParker.com)** - 92 Points *"The 2014 Chardonnay Russian River has a classic baked apricots and apple pie-laced nose with nuances of roasted nuts and buttered toast. Medium to full-bodied and richly fruited, it has a seductive touch of oiliness to the texture and great vitality, finishing a little spicy"*

Buy Now

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

**APPELLATION:**

Russian River Valley, 3-vineyard blend —  
58% Dutton Ranch, 13% DuMOL Estate, 10% Charles Heintz

**CLONES:**

Wente, UCD4 & Mount Eden

**VINE AGE:**

6-40 years

**BARREL AGING:**

Barrel fermented and aged 11 months in 30% new French oak followed by four months settling in tank. Complete malolactic fermentation.

**PRODUCTION:**

4,316 cases of 750ml

I am more excited about our lineup of 2014 chardonnays than any previous vintage and I struggle particularly to recall a finer vintage of the RRV bottling than our new 2014 offering. No hype – the wine is that exciting. A quick look at its vineyard make-up reveals its pedigree, these are special and proven vineyards. As befits this bottling, it's open for business on release and does not require aging. Make no mistake though, it has the density of flavor and deep intensity to improve in bottle for five years. It's a pulsating livewire of a wine filled with rich, creamy layers of fruit backed up by pinpoint vibrant acidity. The deep, deep intensity of flavor sets the wine apart. The dominant flavor is that of citrus oil, like a distillation of lemon and lime – zest and juice – just beautiful. The wine delivers at the designate level and is both more powerful and offers greater intensity than its wonderful 2013 predecessor, which is a bold statement. I sense there's power and depth still held in reserve that will emerge with time, but there's enough focused acidity and brisk salinity to keep the wine in check. It's even more dramatic from a partial, recorked bottle the following day.

Crystalline aromatic purity with white peach, nectarine and pear fruit alongside lemongrass, flint and mineral notes. Powerful driving palate unfolds. Citrus oil, lemon zest and fresh lime juice then ripe stone fruits and almond. Great underlying richness and breadth. Complex savory notes build – celery and sage, beeswax and a smoky flintiness. Deep flavors linger on the lively persistent finish. Serve at no cooler than 55 degrees to allow the natural texture to come forth and drink between 2016 and 2020.



THE  
VINORIUM  
VINTNERS

Merchants of fine & sensational wine

[www.thevinorium.co.uk](http://www.thevinorium.co.uk)

+44(0) 1622 859 161

[enquiries@thevinorium.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thevinorium.co.uk)