



2022 Vintage Notes

EMBRACING A SEASON FILLED WITH PERSONALITY

While it's perpetually tempting to hope for a "perfect" or "easy" vintage, I've found that seasons hailed for their ideal, metronome-like conditions tend to make rather uninteresting wines. In simple terms: a characterless vintage yields characterless wines. Luckily, 2022 didn't lack challenge, personality or excitement - from the very beginning!

Our growing season began early in 2022, thanks to sparse winter rainfall and a warm start to spring which prompted an early budbreak in Sonoma County. This process, which occurs as the vines wake up from winter dormancy, can expose fragile young shoots to unpredictable spring weather like frost. The most common early-season danger in the Russian River Valley, frost has become more common in recent years and we experienced two frost spells in 2022. We also experienced hail in early May, a rare but far more dangerous occurrence. While our Westside Road Estate and a few other vineyards were minimally affected, we avoided major damage and entered summer feeling hopeful.

Our region was then blessed with a rather mild summer where temperatures cooperated, warming gradually into mid-August and leading to our earliest harvest in recent memory. This early start proved to be a godsend as temperatures continued inching higher into September and culminated in a serious, multi-day heatwave beginning September 5th. We were fortunate to have all but our coldest sites harvested before the heat spike, evading the more noticeable damage that it caused in many

vineyards across both Sonoma and Napa counties.

The resulting wines added another layer to my belief that how a vine reacts to Mother Nature's challenges in a given season is as important as how a vine reacts to the terroir in which it grows. Together, it's the combination of terroir and each season's idiosyncrasies that produce vibrant, unique, characterful wines.

In my view, the 2022 season filled Arista cellars with expressive and singular wines. The word "crystalline" continues coming to my mind to describe them - as a group, they are very ethereal, aromatic, and visually beautiful and gem-like. In the vineyard and cellar, as in life, challenges produce depth and character. I hope you enjoy these beautiful wines for years to come.

Cheers!
Matt Courtney



ARISTA
WINERY





2022 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY CHARDONNAY



Our Russian River Valley Chardonnay bottling is a blend of barrels from five excellent sites: Flora Marie, El Diablo, Ritchie, Banfield, and our Westside Road Estate. We believe this wine is a perfect introduction to the Russian River Valley's character and a great snapshot of the 2022 vintage. With contributions from some of the finest Chardonnay vineyards in the appellation, and made with slightly less new oak than our vineyard designates, this cuvée offers the highest level of early drinkability in our portfolio while maintaining an extraordinary degree of quality.

Initially, the 2022 Arista Russian River Valley Chardonnay offers notes of wet stones, caramelized sugar, and candied lemon peel. As the wine opens up, layers of lemon-lime, oyster shell, and white flowers reveal themselves. On the palate, this wine's silky and voluminous mouthfeel is beautifully balanced by subtle saline minerality that adds complexity to the wine. The finish is crisp and clean, leaving a mouth-watering sensation that lingers pleasantly.

Peak drinking window: 2025 - 2030.

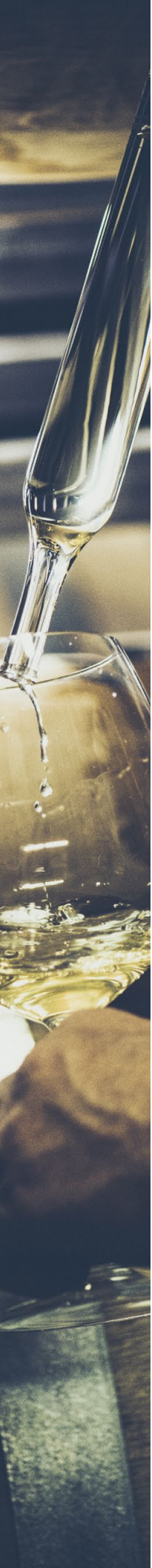
2022 BANFIELD CHARDONNAY



The Banfield Vineyard is one of the oldest vineyards in Sonoma County. The original Zinfandel vines, still in production today, were planted by the Banfield family in 1880. The Chardonnay block was planted one hundred years later, but remains among the oldest Chardonnay plantings in the region. These 45-year-old vines continue to produce a tiny crop of Chardonnay that is the most intensely flavored and aromatic in the Arista portfolio.

The 2022 Banfield Vineyard Chardonnay is both beautifully balanced and strikingly intense. The entire Chardonnay block at Banfield is planted to the venerable "Old Wente" selection, and classic Old Wente descriptors of crème brûlée, lemon oil, and candied citrus are abundant in this wine. Those notes are brought into stark relief by the pronounced natural acidity this vineyard always provides. The finish is driven by a medley of flavors including citrus, orange marmalade, lime candy, spiced apples, honeysuckle, baking spices, and the characteristic caramelized sugar note that's become a hallmark of Banfield Vineyard Chardonnay.

Peak drinking window: 2025 - 2033.



2022 FLORA MARIE CHARDONNAY

Year after year, we have made Chardonnay from the Flora Marie Vineyard, and it has formed an integral part of our Russian River Valley Chardonnay. With the 2022 vintage, we are thrilled to introduce our first single-vineyard Flora Marie Chardonnay release. In the glass, the Flora Marie Chardonnay shows aromas of citrus and stone fruit, which are amplified by undertones of flint and wet stone. Bracing acidity is pronounced but beautifully integrated on the palate, where flavors of candied lemon peel, toasted brioche, and crushed granite harmonize in this medium-bodied wine.

Peak drinking window: 2025 - 2033.



2022 RITCHIE VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

Ritchie Vineyard is without a doubt in the Grand Cru tier of California Chardonnay vineyards. For nearly 50 years, Kent Ritchie has been farming this special slope in the heart of the Russian River Valley, and the resulting wines have become the subject of legend. We feel extremely fortunate to work with the oldest and highest block of Chardonnay in the vineyard, one of the oldest plantings of Chardonnay in the Russian River Valley. These ancient vines produce a tiny crop of small-berried clusters every year, and the wines are consistently impressive for their balance, intensity, and poise.

Ritchie Vineyard is planted exclusively to the “Old Wente” selection of Chardonnay atop a textbook example of the highly coveted Goldridge soil series. The result is a wine with citrus-inflected layers buoyed by a persistent refreshing acidity thanks to the warm vintage. Packed with energy and tightly wound, the wine is multilayered: At first, stone fruit notes drive the aromatics, while the palate is silky and opulent. With time in the glass a procession of flavors emerge including yellow peach, sweet cream, and caramelized sugar, each adding to the incredible complexity of this bright and aromatic expression of New World Chardonnay.

Peak drinking window: 2025 - 2035.



2022 PERLI VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

Perched high above the Pacific Ocean on the Mendocino Coast at an elevation of 1,800 feet, Perli Vineyard is easily the most visually spectacular site that we utilize. The steep, 60% slopes face the ocean and provide expansive views of the Sonoma Coast just a couple of miles to the south, and the wines from this remote site share many of the characteristics of the famous vineyards that dot the ridge tops of the Sonoma Coast AVA just over the county line.

The 2022 edition of Perli Vineyard Chardonnay is a bright, steely wine with great citrusy verve. The initial aromatics of struck match and grilled lemon are joined by notes of white orchard fruit and panna cotta as the wine unwinds and opens in the glass. This wine is tightly wound with great structure and is poised to age beautifully for the next handful of years.

Peak drinking window: 2025 - 2030.



2022 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR

Crisp red fruit, high-toned botanicals, and a glowing ruby red appearance drive our 2022 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir, which beautifully balances floral aromatics with a bright, fresh, tangy mouthfeel. The warm, dry growing season in 2022 allowed our grapes to reach full maturity before harvest, allowing us to use nearly 25% whole clusters during fermentation - a practice that adds depth and brightness to finished wines. After aging in a modest 20% new French Oak, this wine strikes a perfect balance between complexity and drinkability, with spicy oak nuances subtly framing - but never overwhelming - the wine.

Peak drinking window: 2025 - 2032.



2022 PERLI VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Perched high above the Pacific Ocean on the Mendocino Coast at an elevation of 1,800 feet, Perli Vineyard is easily the most visually spectacular site that we are privileged to utilize. The steep, 60% slopes face south and provide expansive views of the nearby Sonoma Coast.

Perli's proximity to the famous vineyards that dot the ridge tops of the Sonoma Coast just over the Mendocino borderline is immediately evident in the glass: The 2022 Perli Pinot instantly shows exotic notes of forest floor, blue fruit, and wild berry - hallmarks of these coastal vineyards. Yet the palate displays Perli's slightly higher elevations and northerly location in the form of grippy tannins and firm acidity that keep us coming back to the glass again and again.

The 2022 vintage was good to the Perli Vineyard, although yields were very low - nearly half of what we normally expect. However, as is often the case, these lower yields had a concentrating effect on the wine, lending the '22 vibrant blueberry and boysenberry notes alongside the spicy flavors that trademark Mendocino Ridge Pinot Noir.

Peak drinking window: 2025 - 2030.



2022 UV LUCKY WELL VINEYARD PINOT NOIR



The Lucky Well Vineyard is perched at the very top of Stoetz Ridge, the landmass that divides the true Sonoma Coast from the Russian River Valley. As a result, the wine made from this site always expresses the best elements of both regions: high-toned wild berry fruit and earth flavors from the Coast, plus the Russian River's signature power, richness, and complexity.

The 2022 Lucky Well Vineyard Pinot Noir is a luminous wine absolutely packed with vibrant flavors and aromas. As with all of the 2022s, the color of the Lucky Well is a mesmerizing jewel-like ruby red, transitioning to a violet rim. This year's edition showcases the soaring aromatics capable of the Lucky Well site - Christmas spice, hard candy, turned earth, and dried flowers emanate from the glass, while Damson plum and tart raspberry flavors grace the palate.

Peak drinking window: 2025 - 2033.

2022 UV VINEYARD PINOT NOIR



UV Vineyard sits at the top of a low-lying ridge in the heart of the Russian River Valley AVA. This is truly the tenderloin of the appellation - to the east lie the warmer lowlands of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and to the west lie the exposed ridgetops of the Sonoma coast. UV Vineyard is situated in the "Goldilocks" zone in between these two extremes. There are many famous Russian River Valley vineyards in this narrow corridor, but maybe none with such a pure example of Goldridge soil - the almost white powdery soil series that gives Russian River Valley wines their renowned energy and elegance.

Dark translucent garnet in color, the 2022 UV Vineyard Pinot Noir is a perfect example of the region's fusion of sophistication and vibrancy. Delicate aromatics of roses, candied strawberries, and wet stones are accented by a subtle toasty barrel note. On the palate, the wine has a vibrating intensity powered by well-integrated natural acidity. A dense core of blue and red fruits is both concentrated yet lively on the palate.

Peak drinking window: 2025 - 2030.



2022 ESTATE PINOT NOIR



The centerpiece of our portfolio is Arista's Estate Pinot Noir. This wine is made exclusively from sustainably farmed vines located on our Westside Road estate. In the heart of the Middle Reach of the Russian River Valley, the 10-acre vineyard was planted in 2006 to 100% heritage selections of Pinot noir under the direction of legendary vineyard manager Ulises Valdez. Of all the neighborhoods of the Russian River Valley, the Middle Reach has risen to fame as host to the oldest vineyards in the appellation, and also as the source of the region's most prodigious wines.

The 2022 Estate Pinot Noir is a textbook example of what is possible in this celebrated appellation. Concentrated yet balanced, the wine melds notes of elderberry reduction, raspberry, black cherry, pencil lead, and toasted brioche. A balance of highly polished tannins and expansive, ripe blue fruit flavors - signatures of Middle Reach wines - offer undiluted luxury across the palate. A sublime juxtaposition of opulence and gravitas, the 2022 Estate Pinot Noir represents the purest expression of our ethos as grape growers and winemakers at Arista and will continue to improve in the cellar for years to come.

Peak drinking window: 2025 - 2035.