



Wine Profile
Moone-Tsai 2018 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay

Tasting Notes

Lemon/straw-hued upon inspection, our 2018 vintage of this coveted chardonnay speaks glowingly to its fabled Sonoma Coast origins just miles from the Russian River and the cooling influences of the Pacific Ocean. Demure on the nose, notes of star jasmine invite inspection, giving way to hints of tropical fruit and ripe pear. The wine's attack encourages further examination, greeting the palate with nods to white nectarine, lilikoi, sweet oak and a suggestion of (Oh!) bananas foster. Whole cluster-pressed, barrel-fermented (partial malolactic fermentation), and aged 16-months sur lie in 45% new French oak, the wine displays a notable freshness and focus through a pleasing acidity and delicate structure. Radiant with aplomb and grace, one is reminded of a young Gwyneth Paltrow in her Oscar-winning role as Viola de Lesseps in the fanciful depiction of romance behind the curtain, *Shakespeare in Love*. Summoned by unforeseen circumstances to rescue the doomed premiere of *Romeo & Juliet*, Viola is compelled to walk-on to a proscribed stage debut, and does so, unflinchingly in Act-1, Scene-3,...the crescendo to this film's fanciful narrative, that in 1999, triumphantly went on to claim seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

The Charles Heintz Vineyard is located in Occidental, near the rocky Sonoma County coastline. The 30-year-old Chardonnay vines are planted on deep, desirable Gold Ridge Sandy Loam top-soils – to which many attribute the unique varietal expression shown by Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grown in the Sonoma Coast and Russian River appellations. The nearby Pacific brings deep and cooling fog over the vineyard nightly during the growing season, encouraging patient ripening and the development of delicate flavors.

Winemaker: Philippe Melka, Bordeaux-bred (*Chateau Haut Brion, Petrus*) and— recently heralded by Robert Parker as one of the top nine winemakers in the world. “*Where possible, I will minimize winemaking techniques in the cellar so I can create a wine that tells the story of the vineyard. In the end, it must be about the fruit.*”

Wine Facts

Varietal Composition:	100% Chardonnay
Vineyards:	Charles Heintz Vineyard, Sonoma Coast
Production:	225 cases
Harvest Date:	September 26, 2018
Cooperage:	45% new French oak: Francois Freres, Rousseau, Damy
Bottle Date:	February 14, 2020
Release Date:	May 2, 2020

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