



Wine Profile
Moone-Tsai 2019 Paige Cuvée Chardonnay
Ritchie Vineyard, Russian River Valley

Tasting Notes

Abundant early rainfall followed by a long, warm summer season set the stage for vibrant and expressive wines that benefited from long hang time...teasing out great color, structure, and soft tannins. Golden, lemony in hue, this expressive chardonnay is true to its Russian River origins, offering a gorgeous nose redolent of gardenia petal, pear, teased by hints of banana bread. At the point of attack, the wine delights, offering traces of kumquat, and candied ginger. Whole cluster-pressed, barrel-fermented and aged 17-months sur lie with 40% new French Oak, the mid-palate further reveals notes of sweet oak, grapefruit zest, and shaved almonds ... highlighted against a relief marked by the wine's superb balance, a pleasing weightiness and delicate acidity. As with previous vintages of this namesake chardonnay, the wine finishes with grace and aplomb, ...with calls for "Encore!" in-store.

Planted by the venerable Kent Ritchie, this acclaimed 70-acre vineyard is located on a northwest-facing hillside in the heart of the Russian River Valley ...where the Santa Rosa Plain and the Laguna de Santa Rosa converge. On this pedigreed site known for its old vines, gnarly vines, coastal breezes and cool morning fog, the gravelly, well-drained Goldridge soil and volcanic tufa combine to foster low-yielding vines that produce coveted chardonnay grapes known for their intensity, complexity, freshness, and vibrancy.

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

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| Varietal Composition: | 100% Chardonnay |
| Vineyards: | Ritchie Vineyard, Russian River Valley |
| Production: | 200 cases |
| Harvest Date: | September 16, 2019 |
| Cooperage: | 40% new French oak: Francois Freres, Rousseau, Damy |
| Bottle Date: | March 12, 2021 |
| Release Date: | Feb 1, 2022 |

For more information: Contact info@moonetsai.com, or via 707.265.6782
www.moonetsai.com