



**MARTINELLI**  
ESTABLISHED IN THE 1880'S

**CHARDONNAY**

CHARLES RANCH VINEYARD • FORT ROSS - SEAVIEW

2021



**GROWING YEAR**

2021 was the driest year on record since they started keeping records 127 years ago. It was also the third year of drought conditions for Sonoma County. Contrary to these conditions, the summer was relatively cool and started two weeks later than the previous year. The drought conditions did bring ripeness to each of our varieties at just about the same time. By the end of the first week, we had 40% of the total tonnage in the winery. This included Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Zinfandel from both Fort Ross-Seaview and Russian River Valley. Despite being a very compact harvest, small clusters and berry size have yielded exceptional quality which makes 2021 a standout vintage.

**VINEYARD CHARACTER**

The Charles Ranch was once one of the largest sheep ranches in Sonoma County. George Charles was a fourth-generation rancher in the rugged hills and raised 2,000 head of sheep along with a small herd of bison. George's son-in-law, Lee Martinelli Sr., was a successful third-generation grape grower and consulted with George as to which grape variety would be the most suitable to plant in this unique climate. The distinct micro-climate is two miles inland from the Pacific Coastline at Fort Ross and is ideally suited for growing Burgundian varieties. In 1980 George sold his herd and used the steep 14-acre pasture to plant Chardonnay grapes, becoming a pioneer of grape growing in an area that is now considered a prime viticultural region. The vineyard was planted in 1981, being the second vineyard planted on the far Sonoma Coast.

**TASTING NOTES**

Delightful aromas of Asian pear, golden apple, and honey are found in the nose. Mouthcoating from entry to finish this richness complements the flavors of preserved lemon and powdered sugar. Whispers of nutmeg are found in the lengthy finish.

**2021 Vintage**

*95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous*

*94 points – Jeb Dunnuck/Aubrey Frick*

**2020 Vintage**

*95 points - Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate*

*95 points – Audrey Frick, Jeb Dunnuck*

**WINEMAKING DETAILS**

Fermentation: 100% neutral French Oak; 100% Malolactic; on the lees with daily battonage

Oak: 50% new French Oak, 50% neutral French Oak, 10 months

Case Production: 192

**VINEYARD DETAILS**

Soil Type:

Josephine and Goldridge,

Rootstock:

AXR and St. George

Clones:

Wente and 04