



Some wines live in a winemaker's head for years or decades before they are born. This is one of those wines. I fell in love with Chardonnay in California first, then in France and then again while making still and sparkling wines in the Russian River Valley. I always thought that if one could combine some of the racy acidity and minerality found in wines from Mersault with some of the lushness of a balanced vintage from California, one could produce a wine that is both pleasing at release but more so, would have the potential to age gracefully.

There are many phenomenal sites to grow great Chardonnay within the Russian River Valley appellation, but it is rare to have all the elements needed to produce an exceptional wine come together at the same time. I feel privileged to have Joe and Tom Rochioli trust me with this fruit from their vineyard.

The 2017 vintage was prolonged, yields were normal for this block and the sugar/acid ratio almost perfect. After whole-cluster pressing, the wine was drawn into French Oak barrels for fermentation and ageing. We stirred the lees every two or three weeks (a practice called "Batonage") and let the wine pretty much "make itself" for the rest of the way. about two-thirds of the barrels underwent a spontaneous malolactic fermentation. We chilled the wine and filtered it in August and bottled it (unfined) in September.

Cheers,

Owner / Winegrower

LONGBOARD

Vineyards

2017

CHARDONNAY

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

ROCHIOLI VINEYARD

Composition: 100% Chardonnay clone 76 - Rochioli Vineyard.

Appellation: 100% Russian River Valley, Sonoma County

Processing: Uninoculated barrel fermentation, batonage 8 months.

Ageing: 12 months in French Oak barrels, 40% New

Analysis: Alcohol 13.6 %
TA 6.9 g/L pH 3.34

Production: 127 Cases

MSRP: \$ 49.00