



2021 Moniker Chardonnay La Ribera Vineyard



Vintage

Low rain and snow during the 2021 winter months continued into a relatively dry spring, followed by a warm summer, with several days over 100 degrees. It was one of the hottest and driest growing seasons on record with vines producing low yields, loose clusters and small berries. Harvest started almost a week ahead of 2020, which was considered an early year, and while the grapes were not plentiful, flavors were exceptional with beautifully expressive fruit.

The Vineyard

Located at the southern base of Ukiah Valley, bordered by 1.5 miles of the Russian River to the west, Morrison Creek to the north and The Creek With No Name to the south, La Ribera Vineyard tends to be one of the earliest vineyards in the region to mature. Warm daytime summer temperatures are moderated by the river and riparian zone that runs along the vineyard, exerting a cooling influence that tempers the heat, helping retain the natural acidity and freshness in the grapes. The soil, composed of base rock from the Mayacamas Mountains and fast-draining Pinole topsoil - a unique balance between sand, gravel, and a light, surface-based clay from the nearby waterways - is the perfect medium, leading to bright, aromatic fruit, an expression of the land in which the vines grow.

Winemaker Notes

White peach, crème brûlée and complex aromas of vanilla and graham cracker on the nose, lead to opulent flavors of ripe apricot, warm peach and nectarine. Vanilla and caramel compliment the wine's fruit, mingling subtle notes of nutmeg and cinnamon in the full finish.

Technical Notes

Appellation:	Mendocino County
Varietal:	100% Chardonnay
Cooperage:	10% new French, 45% 1-3 year French & European oak
Alcohol:	14.5%
TA:	4.6 g/L
pH:	3.56
Release Date:	May 2022
Cases:	3,673
Winemaker:	Jordan Ferrier

92 POINTS
Editors' Choice
WINE ENTHUSIAST
November 2022