

# FRANCIS COPPOLA RESERVE

DUTTON RANCH-JEWELL VINEYARD • RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY  
2016 CHARDONNAY



## FRANCIS COPPOLA RESERVE

The connection between a vine and the soil it's planted in creates the essence of a wine. Francis Coppola Reserve wines are vineyard-specific creations produced in limited quantities from distinctive sites in Sonoma County. Our winemaking team hand-selects the best lots of fruit from each vintage that capture the unique qualities of these prestigious vineyards. From these selections, we craft small-batch wines, which are reserved exclusively for winery guests, Wine Family members, and those who shop with us online.

## DUTTON RANCH

We frequently source from the esteemed Dutton Ranch because their exceptionally well cared for vines consistently produce the most expressive Chardonnay. This year's fruit comes from Dutton's Jewell Vineyard, a small 6-acre parcel comprised of 20+ year-old vines planted to clones Pommard Martinelli, and 115. These selections thrive in the sandy loam soils here and benefit from the diurnal condition afforded by a coastal climate, where day and nighttime temperatures experience a 30-40 degree difference. Not only does this allow the fruit to ripen slowly and accumulate concentration, it helps the grapes retain a better amount of natural acidity, which is essential to creating complex Chardonnay.

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

2016 experienced a classic growing season where a wet winter prepared the vines for good yields. The maturation period was extended, giving the vines extra hangtime to accumulate flavor and development. Most fortuitously, harvest was spread out over many weeks, with each varietal ripening at different times. This slow pace allowed the winemaking team to be highly selective about each batch of fruit. Compared to the overt lushness of last year's Chardonnay, the wine born of this vintage is a tad leaner, more floral, and more mineral-like.

## TASTING NOTES

Barrel fermented to accentuate the varietal's spice nuances, 2016 Francis Coppola Reserve Chardonnay is beautifully balanced, showing freshness and vibrancy both in texture and flavor. An exotic perfume of nectarine, lemon, vanilla, and jasmine is followed by juicy flavors that include melons, oranges, and clove. Smooth and creamy on the palate from malolactic fermentation, this wine's length and complexity make it all the more alluring.

Appellation: Russian River Valley  
Blend: 100% Chardonnay  
Alcohol: 14.5%  
Barrel Regimen: 9 months in French oak,  
30% new oak

FRANCIS FORD  
**COPPOLA**  
WINERY

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