



GARY FARRELL

Winemaker Theresa Heredia (pictured right) is a pioneer of cool-climate viticulture in Sonoma; she has been with the estate since 2012.



Russian River Chardonnay 2019

Russian River Valley, California

ESTATE

For over 38 years, Gary Farrell Winery has crafted small-lot artisan wines capturing balance and stylistic elegance from some of the finest vineyard sites in the Russian River Valley. In 1985, Winemaker Gary Farrell released his 55 cases of 1982 Rochioli-Allen Pinot Noir to widespread critical acclaim. Since that release, the team at Gary Farrell Winery has consistently focused on rigorous vineyard selection, outstanding grower relationships, and superior quality fruit. For the past 8 years, the current owners have been dedicated to enhancing Gary Farrell's legacy with a single-minded focus on quality.

WINE

This layered and complex Chardonnay brings together fruit from several premier Russian River Valley vineyard sites. Anchored by the naturally balanced character of Westside Farms and intriguing floral and stone fruit notes from Bacigalupi Vineyard, the wine's great concentration and structure derive from the nearby Rochioli and Allen vineyards. Olivet Lane Vineyard, featuring the Wente clone, adds refreshing citrus tones and excellent acidity.

VINEYARD

Sources: Westside Farms, Bacigalupi Vineyard-Goddard Ranch, Olivet Lane Vineyard, Rochioli Vineyard, Allen Vineyard, Lazy W Vineyard, Martinelli Vineyard-Parnell Ranch, and Pratt-Cornerstone Vineyard

Farming: Sonoma County will become the nation's first 100% certified sustainable wine region; currently, 90% of Gary Farrell's grower partners are certified or pending certification through California's four accepted programs.

WINEMAKING

Harvest: Fruit is picked at slightly lower sugar levels in order to capture more varietal character, natural acidity and site specificity

Variety: 100% Chardonnay

Aging: 9 Months, French Oak (30% new)

Alcohol: 13.7%

VINTAGE

After record-breaking rainfall in late February, a relatively cool spring followed, delaying bud break into mid to late March. The month of May brought more heavy rains. Thankfully, the cold temperatures and delayed start of bud break meant that bloom was later as well, and only a few vineyards had started to produce flowers, so damage to the crop was minimal. Summer temperatures were perfect and mild. By June, growers began to see that a big crop was forming. Come July, veraison was under way and growers had to drop lots of unevenly ripening clusters on several occasions. Despite the quantity of clusters per vine, flavor, concentration and tannin levels were quite excellent. Canopy management was extremely important in that fruit thinning was necessary at multiple stages of vine development.

TASTING NOTE

Rich & golden, yet vibrant and zesty, this beautiful orchestra of Russian River Valley vineyards offers up enticing aromas of ripe nectarine, honeysuckle, lemongrass and freshly baked brioche. Flinty, briny and spicy, the palate is full-bodied and rich, yet remarkably mineral-driven, with flavors of roasted Meyer lemon, grapefruit, ginger and just a kiss of lightly toasted oak. The beautiful saline quality balances the tangy acidity and lingering spice. Everything is nicely integrated, from the tangy entry to the long oily finish.