



PATZ & HALL

2012 DUTTON RANCH – RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY CHARDONNAY

Vineyard Character: Produced from some of the oldest plantings of Chardonnay in western Sonoma County, this wine is predominantly a blend of California heritage clones and selections—Robert Young, Rued, Hyde-Wente, UC Davis clone 4 and Spring Mountain. Mostly dry-farmed, the vines struggle to produce small but intensely concentrated berries, making for great depth of flavor and texture. Historically, Dutton Ranch yields fragrant, tropical aromatics, underscored by a crisp mineral character.

Tasting Notes: The long, cool 2012 growing season allowed us to achieve perfect ripeness, and to pick exactly when we wished. This, combined with superb viticulture on the part of the Duttons, has produced one of the most successful Chardonnays in our history with Dutton Ranch. The aromas showcase high-toned tropical and Muscat-like notes alongside lovely layers of white flower and citrus peel. On the palate, the texture is plush and mouthfilling, with flavors that echo the aromas. French oak-inspired notes of hazelnut, graham cracker and spicy clove, as well as a hint of campfire smoke, add sophistication to the mid-palate. From start to finish, this is a complex and impeccably balanced wine that concludes with lingering ripe fruit.

Winemaking:

100% Chardonnay fruit
Whole-cluster pressed
100% indigenous yeast
Sur lie aged with weekly stirring
100% malo-lactic fermentation in barrel
40% new Burgundian French oak barrels

Release Date: March 2014

THE PATZ & HALL FAMILY OF WINEGROWERS

Gail, Steve and Joe Dutton - Dutton Ranch - Russian River Valley, Sonoma County

In 1969, Warren Dutton planted some of the first Chardonnay vines in western Sonoma. Sons Steve and Joe Dutton, along with their mother Gail, carry on in Warren's footsteps with what is now one of Sonoma County's most successful vineyard operations. We are able to select from seven blocks of Chardonnay largely planted with California heirloom clones (Robert Young, Rued, Hyde-Wente and UC Davis clone 4) for the Dutton Ranch Chardonnay bottling.

James Hall
Winemaker