SEA SLOPES™
FORT ROSS WINERY

2023 CHARDONNAY · SONOMA COAST

Sea Slopes Chardonnay and Pinot Noir are inspired by the majestic Sonoma Coast and the steep rugged ridges perched at the golden edge of the continent. This cool maritime climate produces fruit of exceptional quality and allows us to craft wines of great elegance and purity. "We aim to capture the essence of the Coast. These wines are at once approachable, balanced and eminently worthy of the quality standards we have established with Fort Ross" - Owners, Lester and Linda Schwartz

2023 VINTAGE: The growing season began with heavy rainfall and cooler temperatures, causing late budbreak and slow vine growth throughout spring. The sun-filled days of summer allowed the flavors within each berry developed steadily. Harvest began later than usual and we picked the small sections within the vineyard when each reached optimal ripeness. The fruit from this low yielding vintage has been crafted into wines of great depth and complexity, each possessing the vibrant acidity this coastal site is praised for.

WINEMAKING: These estate grown grapes were hand-sorted to include the finest fruit, which was then gently pressed. Fermentation occurred in all neutral French oak barrels for vibrancy and freshness while offering texture and length to the finish. The wine completed malolactic fermentation, adding a supple richness. Prior to bottling it was aged on the lees with occasional gentle stirring culminating in a pure expression of Chardonnay from the extreme Sonoma Coast.

TASTING NOTES: Bold aromas of Golden Delicious apples, lemon, floral honeysuckle and cantaloupe melon emerge from the glass. Juicy citrus and apricot tones are beautifully balanced by hints of spice and minerality. The luscious texture reflects a deft hand in winemaking and the fine finish glistens with bright acidity from this cool climate Chardonnay.

JEFF PISONI, WINEMAKER "From the cold, foggy weather to the steep, rugged terrain and marine influences, Sea Slopes explores the hillsides of the Sonoma Coast to craft the best Chardonnay and Pinot Noir possible. Sea Slopes Chardonnay has a bright, vibrant, fresh and texturally layered complex expression of coastal Chardonnay."

COMPOSITION:	100% Chardonnay
AGING:	10 months in French oak barrels: 100% Neutral
PRODUCTION:	440 cases

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