



WAYFARER

2019 CHARDONNAY CUVÉE CLEO

TASTING NOTES

Notes of hawthorn and Acacia emerge from the glass with elements of quince, pear and lemon zest. The wine enters the palate with great elegance. Linear acidity creates focus, while wonderful notes of nectarine, lemon curd and roasted almond are enveloped in the generous breadth of the palate. A sensation of minerality and hints of chalkiness complete the experience.

VINTAGE NOTES

2019 began with several months of heavy rainfall. Chardonnay shoots emerged a week later than normal but growth advanced quickly during a warm April, and energy was plentiful in the soil after late rains in May. Flowering was also a week later than normal but aligned wonderfully with a change in the weather, as rain clouds gave way to clear skies in June. The summer of 2019 was full of sunshine, yet temperatures were moderate to cool. The average high temperature through July and August was 81°F, perfect for gradual ripening. In drier and warmer vintages, we are more proactive in the vineyard, but in 2019 we were able to be patient with the vines. We allowed them to naturally adjust to the energy in the soil and waited until the vines reached their optimal point before moving in with canopy work. By the time veraison began in early August, the vines were tracking only a few days later than normal. 40 days later, we picked our first Chardonnay on September 13th, and concluded harvest on October 5th.

WINEMAKING NOTES

The block was hand-picked and firm, cool clusters were delivered to the winery before sunrise. The fruit was hand-sorted then gently pressed to tank, where the juice settled overnight before being carefully racked to barrel. Native yeast slowly guided alcoholic and malolactic fermentations. The wine aged sur lie without any racking for 15 months in a single, new French oak barrel. It was carefully racked off its lees before being bottled without any fining or filtration.

ACCLAIM

“The 2019 Chardonnay Cuvée Cleo is a smaller production release that's a cellar selection of the best Chardonnay on the estate. Its style is more tight, closed, and mineral-driven compared to the Wayfarer Vineyard release, but it offers similar orchard fruits, chalky minerality, white flowers, and toasty nuances. Brilliant on the palate as well, it's medium to full-bodied, with a terrific spine of acidity, flawless balance, and brilliant length on the finish. This is a spectacular wine on all accounts and I suspect the white of the vintage. It too will benefit from a year or so in bottle and cruise for a good decade.” 99 points, Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, July, 2021

ORIGIN	Wayfarer Vineyard, Fort Ross-Seaview AVA
BLOCKS	28
CLONES	Hyde
WINEMAKER	Todd Kohn
PRUNING	Double guyot
VINE YIELD	2.7 pounds
HARVESTED	September 23, 2019
BOTTLED	December 14, 2020
ALCOHOL	14.5%
pH	3.34
TA	5.9 g/L
PRODUCTION	20 cases