



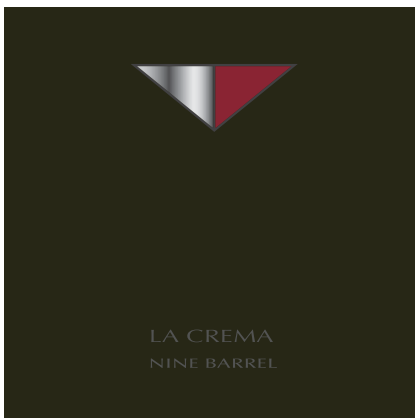
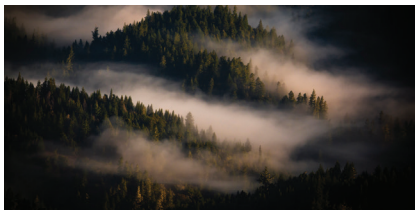
NINE BARREL

2017 *Chardonnay*

Rich. Textured. Refined.

“Aromas of HONEYSUCKLE, baked pear, and pie crust are followed by flavors of Blenheim apricot, WHITE PEACH TART, and honeyed brioche. On the palate, the wine offers juicy acidity and an OPULENT finish.”

JENNIFER WALSH, WINEMAKER



THE STATS:

Appellation: Russian River Valley
 Composition: 100% Chardonnay
 Type of Oak: 100% French oak;
 50% new
 Time in Barrel: 14 months
 Alcohol: 14.5%
 T.A.: 0.54g / 100mL
 pH: 3.49

Our original name, La Crema Vinera, means “best of the vine,” setting the standard for all we do since 1979. Our family-owned and operated winery focuses exclusively on cool-climate appellations. We’re continually exploring these very special regions—passionate in our belief that they make uniquely expressive and elegant wines.

A REMARKABLE PLACE

The home of La Crema and heart of Sonoma County Wine Country, the Russian River Valley AVA is one of the premier wine growing regions in the world. One unique element of the area is the Pacific Ocean’s maritime influence which moderates the warms days of the growing season allowing grapes to ripen and develop slowly. The unique weather patterns combined with a diversity of well-draining soils make the appellation well suited to produce cool climate chardonnay.

EXCEPTIONAL GRAPES

The start of 2017 brought much-needed rainfall, which was followed by a mild, wet spring season. A wet winter and mild spring allowed for a return to normalcy for the timing of bud break while warm weather in mid-March stimulated vines to awaken. Water saturated soils promoted vigorous canopy and cover crop growth requiring additional vineyard attention. Temperatures were moderate during bloom and early grape development. In June and July, cycles of above-average temperatures accelerated maturation with cool nights helping to provide flavor development and acid retention. Record heat on Labor Day weekend prompted an early harvest in the Russian River Valley. The Chardonnay harvest began on August 31st in the Russian River Valley.

ARTISAN WINEMAKING

Our small-batch, hands-on techniques continued into the winery.

The fruit was picked in the cool morning hours before being gently whole-cluster pressed to preserve fresh fruit characteristics. The free-run juice was allowed to settle overnight at cold temperatures before being racked to French oak barrels for fermentation. Primary and secondary fermentation occurred in exclusively French oak barrels, and lees were stirred occasionally to develop texture. The finished wine was aged in French oak barrels for over one year before bottling. Our 9 Barrel Blend is a selection of the nine best Chardonnay barrel lots from each vintage. For the 2017 vintage, the selected barrels were from some of our most exceptional estate and grower vineyards located throughout the Russian River Valley.

The soulful, spirited Russian River Valley in every sip.