

# SONOMA COAST 2018 CHARDONNAY

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

One of Sonoma County's largest AVAs, the Sonoma Coast Appellation stretches from the San Pablo Bay in the South to Mendocino County line to the North and runs primarily along the mountainous coastline of the Pacific Ocean. A sprawling growing region, the Sonoma Coast AVA is known for its strong maritime influence that provides a cool growing climate throughout the year with fog moderating warmer summer temperatures. With its unique geography and climate, the Sonoma Coast has proven itself to be one of the world's premier Chardonnay producing regions.

The fruit for this wine was sourced from several of La Crema's estate vineyards including Saralee's, Kelli Ann, and Durell. Soils across the vineyards are predominantly free draining and low vigor. Clones include 4,5,15, 17 (Robert Young), 76, 95,96, 809, Wente, and Hyde Wente.

It's one of the world's best cool-climate appellations. It's a place for La Crema.

## **EXCEPTIONAL GRAPES**

The 2018 growing season saw a return to more typical conditions in Northern California. Winter provided ample rainfall which was followed by a mild but wet spring. Bud break occurred in late March which was 3-4 weeks later than the previous two years. Moderate temperatures persisted through bloom and early grape development allowing for healthy fruit set. Summer brought warmer temperatures but was absent extreme heat spikes seen in past years and in August the marine layer consistently provided cool mornings. The fruit ripened slowly giving the desired long hangtime on the vine which promotes flavor development and helps retain natural acidity in the grapes. The 2018 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay harvest started on September 15.

#### ARTISAN WINEMAKING

# Our boutique, hands-on techniques continued into the winery.

Once picked the fruit is gently pressed and allowed to settle for 24 hours before being racked to oak barrels for fermentation. 15% of the barrels are initially co-inoculated with a house strain of malolactic bacteria which are later used to top off the remainder of the entire lot after primary fermentation is complete. The lees in each barrel are stirred once or twice a month to provide additional texture. The finished wine is aged on lees for 8 months before final blending and bottling.

California's exquisite Sonoma Coast, in a bottle.

### Vibrant, Rich, Balanced

"Aromas of MEYER LEMON, GALA APPLE, and subtle hints of OAK are followed by flavors of WHITE STONE FRUIT, YELLOW PLUM, AND HONEYDEW MELON. On the palate, the wine is vibrant and concentrated with juicy acidity that drives a lingering finish."

CRAIG MCALLISTER, WINEMAKER

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THE STATS:

Appellation: Sonoma Coast

Type of Oak: 75% French and 25%

American Oak; 17% new

Time in Barrel: 7 months Alcohol: 13.5%

T.A.: 0.56g / 100mL

pH: 3.65