



# Founders Reserve

VINTAGE 2022 · RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY · CHARDONNAY

The Founders Reserve Chardonnay is the tête de cuvée of each vintage and the most distinctive Chardonnay from Sonoma-Cutrer. Crafted from the winemakers' top barrel selections, this wine reveals a richly layered profile and focused structure, showcasing exceptional depth and character.

#### VINTAGE OBSERVATIONS

Here we go again! After what looked like a promising season last fall, the first three months of the year became California's driest on record, marking the third year of mega-drought. As in past drought years, we closely monitored vine needs and soil moisture. Fortunately, a mild spring and summer, along with a beautiful August and the return of fog, helped us navigate this challenging season.

#### WINEMAKING PROCESS

For this vintage, The Founders Reserve Chardonnay is crafted using fruit from the A. Bonetti Block of The Cutrer Vineyard. Named after Sonoma-Cutrer's first Director of Winemaking, Bill Bonetti, this premium block is planted in a traditional Burgundian style of tight, meter-by-meter spacing. The fruit was hand-harvested at night into shallow bins and cooled to preserve fresh flavors and natural acidity. After whole-cluster pressing, the cool, golden-green free-run juice settled for a few days before fermenting in French oak barrels and aged for 16 months in the cave-like conditions of our Grand Cru cellar.

#### TASTING NOTES

This vintage opens with inviting aromas of crisp apple, Bosc pear and peach, underscored by oak characteristics of nougat, clove, caramel, sandalwood alongside a light touch of white blossom. Bright flavors of pear and fresh apple blend seamlessly with subtle pie crust and toasted bread notes, complemented by a creamy texture. Balanced by a lively acidity, the palate is rich yet focused, leading to an elegant, smooth finish that lingers beautifully.

**COMPOSITION:** 100% CHARDONNAY

**VINEYARD:** 100% THE CUTRER, BLOCK: A. BONETTI

**FERMENTATION:** 100% MALOLACTIC, 100% OAK

**BARREL AGING:** AGED FOR 16 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK, 25% NEW

**KEY COOPERS:** REMOND, ROUSSEAU, TW BOSWELL

**ALCOHOL:** 13.8% · **TOTAL ACIDITY:** 6.1 G/L · **PH:** 3.46

