



## FOUNDERS RESERVE CHARDONNAY

VINTAGE 2022 • RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY • SINGLE BLOCK • ESTATE BOTTLED

### OBSERVATIONS ON A NEW VINTAGE

Founder Reserve 2022 is a unique wine with a special story. For this vintage, we chose 100% of the fruit from our Cutrer Vineyard, A, Bonetti block and harvested it on September 17, 2022.

Bill Bonetti was the first Director of Winemaking at Sonoma-Cutrer. When he was hired in 1981, legend has it that he was specifically sought out by the winery principles because of his extensive wine knowledge and his stylistic approach in creating lean, food-friendly wines. Bill is credited with creating Sonoma-Cutrer's classic Chardonnay style, our wine philosophy and vision during his ten-year tenure on the brand.

The Cutrer A Bonetti block is planted in a traditional Burgundian style of meter by meter tight spacing. In 2022, we renamed this block from A Burgundy to A Bonetti in dedication to Bill to honor his legacy and visionary efforts in crafting our highly acclaimed and awarded style of Chardonnay.

### OUR VINEYARDS

Located in the heart of the famous Russian River Valley and home to our winery, the Cutrer vineyard soil rests on an ancient seabed that retains heat throughout the day and into the early evening, radiating that heat up to the closely spaced vines. This vineyard is multi-faceted, with microclimates throughout. The soil characteristics, varied rootstocks, and diverse clones interact with the climate to create different nuances in each block of the vineyard, giving the winemakers a virtual spice rack of flavors to create our wines.

### ON THE WINE

Grapes were hand-harvested at night and then cooled down to preserve the fruit's fresh flavors and natural acidity. After hand-sorting, grapes were gently whole-cluster pressed to avoid bitter tannins from the skins and grape seeds. The cool, golden-green, free-run juice was then settled naturally in tanks for a few days before heading to French oak barrels for fermentation and aging. For sixteen months the wine was matured sur-lies in the cave-like conditions of our Grand Cru cellar.

This Founders showcases the best characteristics of The Cutrer vineyard with a more focused structure than most Cutrer wines. On the nose, nougat, clove, caramel, sandalwood, and nutmeg oak characters integrate nicely with Honeycrisp apple and Asian pear fruit with hints of white blossom and cream. A striking palate structure combines deep richness with tight focus and length leading to a round mid-palate. The oak and the fruit flavors mix well together with Bosc pear & peach fruit, toasted nuts, clove and nutmeg oak components. The wine finishes with a light coating of oak spice. While this vintage is ready to drink now, Founders Reserve is always a wine that enjoys time in the bottle. We recommend cellaring for one to two years before enjoying it. In a temperature controlled environment, this Chardonnay can be aged for 10+ years.

Alcohol 13.8% • TA: 6.1 gms/L • pH: 3.46 • RS: 0.7 gms/L (very dry)  
100% Chardonnay • 100% Malolactic Fermentation • 100% Oak fermented  
Oak aged for a total of 16 months in 25% New and 75% 1-year old barrels  
Vineyard- 100% The Cutrer, A Bonetti



**SONOMA-CUTRER®**

Please enjoy our wines responsibly.

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