

DUTTON *Goldfield*

2020

RUED VINEYARD

CHARDONNAY

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

APPELLATION

Green Valley of
Russian River Valley

VINEYARD

Rued Vineyard
Certified Sustainable

HARVEST DATE

September 8, 2020

ALCOHOL

13.8%

TITRATABLE ACIDITY

6.2 gm/Lit.

PH

3.30

WINEMAKING

100% barrel fermentation,
100% malolactic
fermentation, bottled
unfiltered, stirred lees

BARREL AGING

18 months in French oak
(50% new barrels)

WINEMAKER

Dan Goldfield

CASES PRODUCED

152

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE

\$55

THE VINEYARD

In 1969 Warren Dutton planted this scenic Chardonnay vineyard on a redwood ringed, east-facing hillside in Green Valley. Originally budded as Old Wente selection, it turns out that over half of the wood he received was a so called “chardonnay musqué” selection, which produce wines of floral, high-toned fruit aromas, and exceptionally rich mouthfeel. The selection has since been propagated across California and is referred to as the “Rued Clone.” Like all of the Wente offshoots, these are not truly “clones” but field selections propagated from preferred vineyard cuttings, rather than a single shoot in a nursery. But the clone is just a small part of the distinction of this magical place. The soil is super sandy Goldridge series, the old vines are dry farmed, impressively healthy, and amazingly consistent, whatever the weather throws at us. The berries are thick skinned and tiny for chard, and produce a wine of solid acidity, unusual minerality, an enticing depth of flavors and tremendous ageability.

WINEMAKING

The exceptional fruit from this old vineyard enables the winemaker to pull out all the stops and still produce a wine of great structure and fruit focus. Rued is 100% barrel fermented, and undergoes full malolactic fermentation. A large portion of the barrels are fermented using native yeast for richness and complexity, while some are inoculated with cultured strains that showcase the floral aromatics of the clone. The blend for this wine was barrel selected in April 2021, blended along with the primary yeast lees, and then sent back to barrel until bottling in March of 2022. For this special wine our signature barrel blend combines the fresh ginger and high-toned spice of Seguin Moreau Premium barrels, the structure and richness imparted by Taransaud, and a touch of Fouquet's ebullience. With the great solidity and concentration of this fruit, long barrel aging elicits a wonderful combination of lushness and complexity in the wine.

THE WINE

The 2020 Rued Chardonnay is especially elegant, complex, and intense, so we're sorry to say we have so few cases to share. The low yield packed all that concentrated loveliness into this bottling, leading with exotic notes of the wine's trademark lychee and white flowers, accompanied by ginger and lemongrass. In the mouth, the texture is creamy while the flavors are lively with citrus, like a lemon curd custard. Fresh lime zest is followed by a kiss of toffee on the extended finish, providing a nice juxtaposition of bright and opulent and a sense of perfect balance. While you may want to enjoy this sophisticated beauty on its own, it will match an array of dishes, from fish to poultry to pasta, and really sings with pairings that mimic its creamy and fresh nature, like a spicy crab bisque. Valley Ford's Estero Gold Reserve is our favorite cheese match.

Dutton-Goldfield Winery began in a vineyard in 1998, when longtime colleagues and friends Steve Dutton and Dan Goldfield recognized a shared vision between them — to craft wines that express the personalities of their vineyards, and which they'd enjoy drinking at their own dinner tables. Our mission is to produce world-class wines that display the brightness of fruit, complexity, structure and balance that are reflective of our cool coastal home.