

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

Scot Covington – Winemaker

Trione 2014 Russian River Valley Chardonnay River Road Ranch

River Road Ranch is a 115-acre jewel in the heart of the Russian River Valley AVA. Chardonnay vines thrive in well-drained soils, shrouded with fog cooled nights, ideal growing conditions. The grapes for this wine came from two blocks of twelve and fifteen-year-old vines, planted with clones #4, 95, and 2A-Wente.

Cases produced: 836

Suggested California retail price: \$34

Winemaking: We made this wine using time honored, traditional Burgundian protocols: pressing whole bunches for gentle juice extraction, settling the juice then racking directly to French oak barrels — 40% new. This year we used Grand Cru Toast barrels exclusively from *Mercurey*, an excellent small cooper. We added a special mixture of the previous year's wine lees to initiate fermentation. The Chardonnay fermented slowly, over several months. Bottling date: December 15, 2015.

Winemaker Notes: Elegant and seductive aromas of apple, citrus and vanilla lead to a smooth, silky palate—firm in structure, rich in flavor. The Chardonnay's full dimension extends through a lingering finish with hints of orange peel and warm spice. This Chardonnay will continue to develop over the next five to seven years.

Alcohol: 14.4 percent by volume

TA: 6.6 g/l

pH: 3.42