



**Three Sisters Vineyard Chardonnay**  
**Fort Ross-Seaview**  
**Sonoma Coast**  
**2011**

### **Vineyard Character**

The climate is moderate in this area of the far western reaches of Sonoma County due to the closeness of the body of ocean. This grape studded view lies upon the second ridge inland from the coastline at Fort Ross. Here above the fog line the skies are clear and pristine, yet in the winter the rain falls harder and denser than anywhere else in Sonoma County. The Three Sisters Vineyard consists of two small vineyard sites: the Meadow, and the Lambing Barn Ridge, as this land was originally used for raising sheep. Both sites are planted with clones 95, 96, and 76 and the soil is a mix of Josephine and Gold Ridge soil.

### **Growing Year**

This was one of the coolest growing years on record in the last 30 years, especially during the month of June. Due to the cool weather, harvest was later than usual. These wines will age well, and show more structure due to the increased acidity from the cooler growing season.

### **Wine Statistics**

This petite vineyard is trained on a vertical trellis system with the fruit hanging just 24 inches above the ground. The vines are densely spaced and thinned between two and three pounds of fruit per vine. These practices all insure even ripening and mature fruit character in the wine. The wine is 100% barrel fermented with wild yeast, resting in 65% new French oak for 10 months before bottling. The grapes, juice, and then wine are minimally handled. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, and is un-fined and un-filtered, clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 69

### **Tasting Notes**

The 2011 Three Sisters Chardonnay has a big nose of lemon curd and cream, with pineapple and gardenia. The palate has a very lush texture that is loaded with stone fruits and lemon zest, with hints of orange peel and tangerine.

### **Historical Acclaim**

#### 2011 Vintage

- 95 pts. Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 93 pts. Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

#### 2010 Vintage

- 93 pts. Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar
- 92 pts. Robert M. Parker, Jr., The Wine Advocate

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green