



Three Sisters Vineyard Chardonnay
Fort Ross-Seaview / Sonoma Coast
2013

Vineyard Character

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. 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. Both sites are planted with clones 95, 96, and 76 and the soil is a mix of Josephine and Gold Ridge soil.

Growing Year

The 2013 growing year was the second dry year in a row for Sonoma County. It was an especially dry spring and warmed up early, so the vines got an early jump on the season. Bloom came along in early May and the temperatures were perfect for berry pollination. The clusters ended up setting an abundance of berries. We had to do quite a bit of cluster thinning to maintain our desired crop levels and to get some sunlight and air movement into the canopy. Harvest came early as well. Fortunately, we had cooler temps about midway through, which slowed down picking and allowed us to catch up on things - including sleep! Harvest was complete after 7-8 weeks.

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 60% 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: 332

Tasting Notes

The 2013 Three Sisters Chardonnay has a nose of perfumed lemon, chalk and honeysuckle with brilliant focus. The palate offers a full, dry brightness in the core – hazelnut and baked apple, beautifully textured.

Historical Acclaim

2013 Vintage

- 96 points Robert M Parker Jr., The Wine Advocate
- 93 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous

2012 Vintage

- 95 points Robert M Parker Jr., The Wine Advocate
- 92+ points Antonio Galloni, Vinous

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green