

PETER PAUL

WINES

2018 Chardonnay Bacigalupi Russian River Valley

After the fun rollercoaster of the 2017 vintage, 2018 was like a calm stroll through the woods; effortless with consistent, moderate weather for what turned out to be the longest harvest in years. In fact, I remember how few vintners and winemakers came to my taco truck party in late October because they were still picking fruit. The good news: both phenolic maturity and sugar-levels were in pristine balance at harvest. Thankfully, we wrapped up Pinot Noir and Chardonnay well before the rains of early October. The resulting wines have a lovely density of fruit and an impressively balanced body-to-acidity ratio, in particular from the Bacigalupi Vineyard.

About the Wine

This bottling is sourced from one of the most famous vineyards in Russian River. In 1976, Bacigalupi grapes were part of the Chardonnay blend that won the famous “Paris Tasting”, effectively putting California wines on the global map. Our Bloom Ranch parcel has the “old school” California canopy that allows the fruit to ripen to full physiological maturity without sunburn. In 2018, grapes were harvested at 24.9 Brix and gently pressed directly into 50% new French barrels (mixture of Seguin Moreau, Cadus, and Sylvain). The wine underwent partial malolactic fermentation before resting 16 months in barrel (no racking) with extended lees aging. Bottled unfinned and lightly filtered—because partial MLF requires it.

Tasting Notes

Bacigalupi is evocative, showing striking aromas of apple, apricot, pineapple, chamomile tea, and wet stone. It delivers a bountiful palate full of sweet apple, coconut flesh, lemon preserve, and flavors that recall Turkish delight: dates, hazelnut, and Bergamot orange. The concentrated, creamy mouthfeel is balanced by notable acidity and a distinctly stony/mineral nuance on the finish, which seems to be a consistent calling card of this vineyard. Vintage to vintage, Bacigalupi continues to express its pedigree as one of California's finest Chardonnay sites.

Technical Data:

Variety: 100% Chardonnay, Old Wente Clone
Maturation: 100% French Oak, 50% New, 16 months
Appellation: Russian River Valley
Bottled Date: January 2020
Production: 196 cases
Retail: \$48.00