

PETER PAUL

WINES

2019 Chardonnay Russian River Valley Bacigalupi Vineyard

After watching how well the 2018 performed, the 2019 season simply said “hold my beer.” This year provided almost flawless growing conditions across Sonoma & Napa County. Given the gifts nature provided, there is much to look forward to (this does not happen every year – see 2020). The season saw just the right amount of early heat to acclimate the baby grapes, followed by a well-behaved temperature arc through the extended summer that laid the groundwork for pristine fruit maturity. The result was an outstanding harvest with distinctly sexy flavor development. Thankfully, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay harvest wrapped up well before the fires in late October. 2019 might be a year we speak about for a long time. Good news too, in case 2021 tells 2020 to hold its beer.

Vineyard Source:

This is now our 11th year of sourcing our flagship Chardonnay from one of *the* most famous vineyards in the Russian River Valley. In 1976, Bacigalupi grapes were part of the Chateau Montelena blend that won the famous “Paris Tasting”, effectively putting California wines on the map. The vineyard continues to deliver extraordinary quality commensurate with its renowned terroir. Our parcel has the “old school” California canopy that allows the fruit to ripen to full physiological maturity without sunburn. Traditional old world techniques, such as native yeast fermentation, batonnage, partial MLF and extended lees aging yield a rich, complex wine. The wine is fermented and aged in 100% French barrels and bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

Tasting Notes:

Our 2019 Bacigalupi Chardonnay has powerful depth of flavor and character, with a core of striking acidity and a persistent minerality that faithfully captures the beauty of its origin. This evokes spring flowers, chamomile tea, citrus pith, wet stone, and blanched almonds. The palate is not as overtly ripe as 18, but honestly, I think that’s a good thing, as it shows stone and citrus fruits, hints of cream and an alluring bitterness that complements the way a sus4 jazz chord does. The partial-new barrel maturation lend layers of complexity and texture without overwhelming the essential character of this site. Bacigalupi delivers exceptional consistency from vintage to vintage expressing its pedigree as one of California's finest vineyards.

Technical Data:

Variety: 100% Chardonnay Clones: Old Wente
Oak: 100% French Oak, 50% new for 15 months
Cases Produced: 200 cases – 8 Barrels
Appellation: Russian River Valley