



picket fence®

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY



RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY Chardonnay

BLEND: 100% Chardonnay

VINEYARDS: “The Picket Fence Chardonnay is grown in the Russian River Valley vineyards of River East and Green Valley Vineyard where warm, sunny days alternate with cool foggy evenings, enabling the grapes to ripen slowly producing sophisticated flavors. Grapes are hand harvested in ideal conditions to keep the clusters cool and preserve acidity and crisp flavors. The grapes travel just a short distance to the winery, ensuring they arrive in peak condition.”
– *Pete Opatz, Vineyard Manager*

TASTING NOTES: “This richly textured wine has the backbone and balance one associates with Russian River Valley Chardonnays. Beautiful Meyer lemon notes and crisp fruit with hints of bright apple mingle with the toasted oak components of caramelized brown spices, resulting in a rich, sensuous wine that coats the mouth with a long, silky finish.”
– *Alison Crowe, Winemaker*

WINEMAKING: The cool fruit was gently pressed in the winery and following primary fermentation the wine went through partial malolactic fermentation. The wine ages in 50% new French oak—medium plus toast—to broaden the palate and add complexity and structure.

ALCOHOL: 14.5%

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY Pinot Noir

BLEND: 100% Pinot Noir

VINEYARDS: “The Picket Fence Pinot Noir is a harmonious wine grown in the Russian River Valley in Green Valley vineyard on Westside Road where consistent warm days and cool evenings create the ideal climate for growing Burgundian varietals. The Pinot Noir grapes are hand harvested at night, a labor intensive process that helps retain the freshness and acidity so crucial to well balanced Pinot Noir.”
– *Pete Opatz, Vineyard Manager*

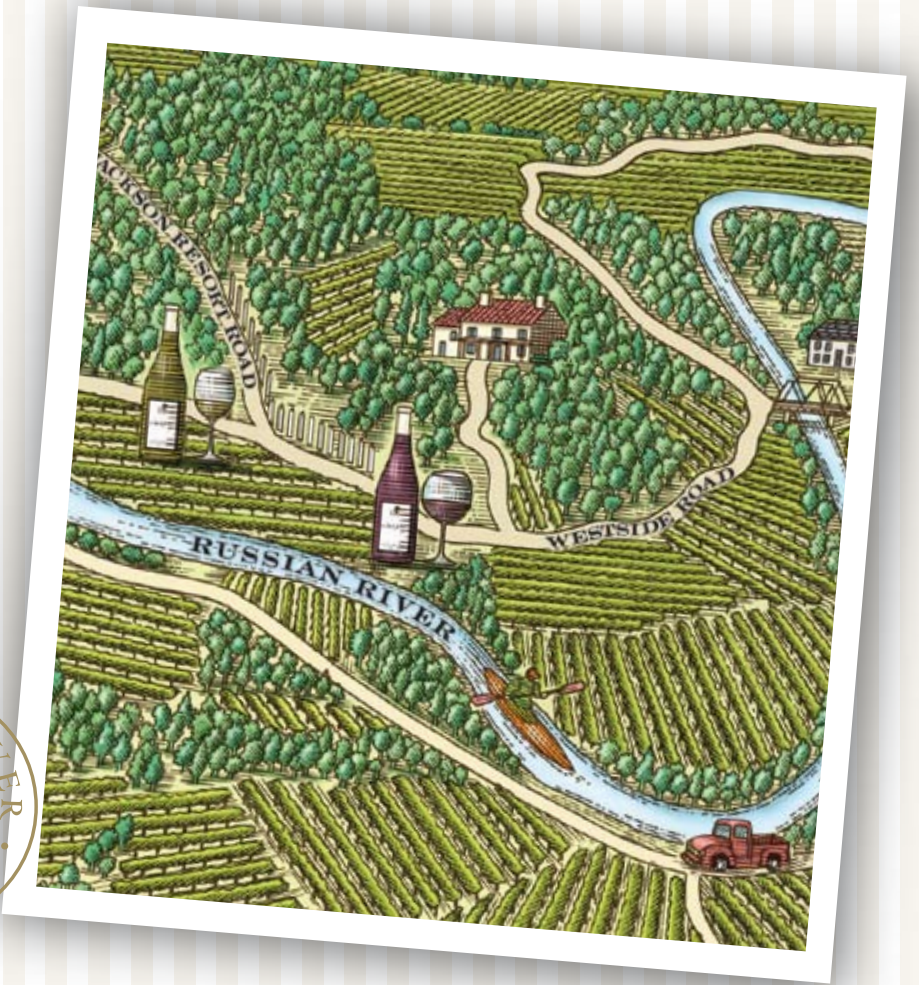
TASTING NOTES: “The challenge with Pinot Noir is to get enough extract from the grape skins without turning the wine into something too heavy and rustic. This wine has an elegant, pure fruit forward style, with brilliant intensity, spice and rich Bing cherry, but with a luxurious density in the mouthfeel. The hallmark of this wine is the great palate appeal, the fruit coupled with the velvety texture make this a superlative example of Russian River Valley Pinot Noir.”
– *Alison Crowe, Winemaker*

WINEMAKING: After the optimal short run to the winery the bright grapes were sorted and pressed gently, the juice was fermented in small, open-top tanks then aged in 50% new French oak. Winemaker Alison Crowe specified medium plus toast to give the wine warmth and richness.

ALCOHOL: 14.5%

“Expertly grown and harvested, our grapes are a true expression of the soil and climate that specifically define Russian River Valley.”

PETE O’PATZ
Picket Fence Viticulturist



KEY FACTS FOR PICKET FENCE VINEYARDS

UNIQUE MICROCLIMATE

The Russian River Valley is one of the coolest appellations in Sonoma County with diverse soils and micro-climates because of its tumultuous geological history.

During the evening the valley is covered by thick fog sometimes dropping the temperature 40 degrees. The fog steadily retreats to the coast by mid-morning and the afternoons are warm and sunny allowing the grapes to ripen slowly and evenly. The long hang time creates full, rich flavors.

The yearly flooding of the river renews the land with youthful river bottom soils supplying rich, rocky alluvium soil that nourishes vine growth.

These make for some of the best conditions recognized for growing world class Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING TECHNIQUES

Cover crops are planted between the vineyard rows to control erosion, improve soil structure, add nutrients and host beneficial predators.

Viticulturist Pete Opatz evaluates the vineyards each week perfectly matching water, nutrient, and trellising requirements for each vine with the soil and climate conditions.

The natural growth of native plants along the property boundaries is encouraged to control invasive weeds and increase plant and animal biodiversity.

Picket Fence is committed to sustainable farming practices. Sustainable farming produces healthy soils and fruit.

CHARDONNAY NOTES:

PINOT NOIR NOTES:
