

WILLIAMS SELYEM



2013 Drake Estate Vineyard Chardonnay

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

On the nose, creamy lemon and yellow apple aromas are complemented by hints of jasmine flowers. The perfectly integrated French oak gives way to a tangerine oil note that intrigues the palate. In the mouth, flavors of spiced pear, nutmeg, and minerals seem to travel along a beam of refreshing acidity. The finish is seamless and leaves the palate with a lifted white flower pop.

THE VINEYARD

The Drake Estate Vineyard is located right on the Russian River near Guerneville, and it has the same Yolo Sandy Silt Loam soil as found in many of the very best vineyards along Westside Road. Originally planted to Rome apples, a late-ripening variety, the property has proven itself an exceptional location for growing Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

HARVEST 2013

With great back-to-back vintages, 2013 was every bit as good as 2012 has proven to be. Amidst concerns about another drought year, the rain gauges filled up to about 80% of the yearly average. The growing conditions were very favorable, which resulted in a remarkably similar growing season to the exceptional 2012 vintage. The only notable difference, however, was the increase of heat units in 2013, as measured by the Growing Degree Day index. With below average rainfall for the season bud break initiated earlier than average along Westside Road. April showers helped to drive good shoot growth and set the plants up for May flowering. Excellent weather at flowering time allowed for fantastic set and a bountiful yield across all appellations and varieties. Even with an earlier start to the growing season, the grapes had the ideal amount of time on the vine to achieve full maturity without any threat of inclement weather late in the season. Wines from the 2013 vintage exhibit extremely pure and polished tannins and the acidity will provide longevity, but the supple structure also offers earlier enjoyment.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Barrel Description: 28% new, 24% 1 yr., 24% 2yr., 24% 3 yr.+ older

Barrel Aged: 16 months

pH: 3.46

TA: 0.66g/100mL

Alc: 14.5%

Released Fall 2015

\$65

