

WILLIAMS SELYEM



2023 Heintz Vineyard Chardonnay

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

This layered wine showcases the beauty of the outstanding Heintz Vineyard in West Sonoma County. The cool growing region produces a wine that intertwines tropical and citrus fruit with aromas of crème brûlée and lemon curd. The palate evokes the region's long history of apple farming, as this wine exudes flavors of yellow apple skin and baked apple pie. The fresh mineral finish is a hallmark characteristic of Heintz Vineyard Chardonnay. It can be enjoyed for many years to come.

THE VINEYARD

This vineyard site has belonged to the Heintz family for over 100 years. In 1980, it was planted with Clone 4 Chardonnay. Located in the Russian River Valley town of Occidental and sitting at an elevation of 1,000 feet, cool foggy evenings and warm sunny days allow the grapes an extended hang time, producing fruit with high acid levels that give great structure and balance to the wine.

HARVEST 2023

We experienced a welcome sense of normality in 2023, after tumultuous weather patterns during previous growing seasons, including drought conditions, heat events, and hail. This vintage began auspiciously with historical average rainfall and modest temperatures at the start of bud break. Ample sunshine and early heat resulted in even growth of the canopies, creating uniformity and balance as the vines entered the flowering cycle. While it was similarly cool at the outset of 2011, the 2023 heat units built slowly, and the weather was ideal by May. The flowering period was quick, and the fruit set bountiful. The weather was perfect in June and July, with a few heat spikes that kept the plants healthy and sustained. Mid-season crop adjustments were necessary to ensure good vine balance as veraison approached. With the cooler start to the vintage and the normal fog pattern of August, the ripening cycle slowed, and the crop achieved ideal hang time for tannin development at modest sugars. Across the board, the wines exhibit terrific purity of character with excellent tannin resolution. While hot and dry years can create wines of shocking intensity, these cooler vintages showcase the elegant style of Williams Selyem.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Barrel Description: 33% new, 23% 1 yr., 22% 2 yr., 22% 3+ yr.

Barrel Aged: 13 months

pH: 3.30

TA: 0.70g/100mL

Alc: 13.7%

Released 2025

