

WINE IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION

Donelan

DONELAN FAMILY WINES

2022 *Russian River Valley*
Allen Vineyard
Cuvée Pierrine Chardonnay

The 2022 vintage was a very low-yielding year for Allen Vineyard, and it mostly came down to one major weather event. In May, we experienced a freak hailstorm right in the middle of flowering. While most of Sonoma was spared, the northern areas, including Allen Vineyard, were affected. Chardonnay suffered particularly badly because, at that time of year, it's already in full bloom. The hail knocked off about half of the clusters' inflorescence, reducing yields by roughly 50% compared to 2021.

The result? A concentrated and flavorful 2022 crop. The 2022 Cuvée Pierrine Chardonnay bursts with aromas of grilled green pineapple, wet stone, slate, and juicy orchard fruit. On the palate, it's bright with mineral-driven acidity, complemented by a well-balanced and integrated oak component. This medium-bodied, textured Chardonnay boasts a remarkably long finish—young, fresh, and absolutely delicious.

Originally planted in the early 70s, the Allen Ranch has been farmed and tended to by the Rochioli family since day one. When rumor of this fruit's availability came across our purview, we jumped and called Tom Rochioli right away. Luckily for us, a long term Sonoma County vintner was giving up his contract of Block 4 and we happily obliged to take it over.

The vineyard sits on a gravelly bench with the Russian River directly to its East and Rochioli Three Corner Pinot Noir contiguous to the North. This area of the Middle Reach neighborhood is referred to as the 'Miracle Mile' for a very good reason. The wines produced from here have an almost infinite amount of complexity and flavor profile. The Cuvée Pierrine Chardonnay is named after Tripp and Sarah Donelan's first born.

Cellar Notes:

Percentage New Oak

40%

Aging

14 mos. Oak Barrel

3 mos. Stainless Steel Tank

Bottling Date

February 2024

*~Unfiltered/Unfined, Native Primary
Fermentation/Native ML*

Composition

100% Chardonnay

Alcohol

14.2%

Production

115 cases

Clones

Dijon 76

