THE TEMPTRESS

2022 CATTLEYA CHARDONNAY

COLLECTION SERIES

"Temptation often leads to desire"

THE VINEYARD SITE

The Martinelli Road Vineyard is located in the heart of the acclaimed Russian River Valley AVA in Sonoma County, California. This vineyard, planted with both Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, benefits from the cool, coastal influences of the Pacific Ocean which allows for optimum growing conditions for these famed Burgundian varieties. The soil is Franciscan and Goldridge, charactaristic of clay and loam fractured rock. The end result is a wine of unmistakable purity that reflects the unique relationship between a truly special piece of land and the ideal climate that surrounds it. This wine is crafted from clone 95 Wente.

THE CRAFT

Harvest took place in the early morning hours of September 14th. All of the fruit was gently whole-cluster pressed and the juice was cold-settled overnight, before racking to 38% new French oak barrels for native fermentation. Primary fermentation continued steadily over the following four months, followed by full malolactic fermentation. After an additional 14 months of peaceful aging in barrel, this wine was gently racked to tank before being bottled without fining or filtration. Bottling took place January 30th of 2024.

THE TASTE

Shades of straw with tinges of youthful green glint in the glass as this Chardonnay exhibits pronounced aromas of white peach, lemon zest, and candied ginger. These aromas blend seamlessly with mineral undertones of crushed rock and flint, all wrapped in a subtle blanket of freshly baked brioche. The palate follows suit with density and concentration at every turn with flavors of red apple, crisp pear, and stone fruit. Lightly toasted French oak barrels pair perfectly with this wine, carefully preserving acidity and ending with a long finish.

Cases produced: 185 (9L equivalent) | Alc. 14.5% | RS: 1.15 g/L | pH: 3.56 | TA: 5.7 g/L | SRP: $75

THE MEANING BEHIND THE NAME

With the hero tempted into desire by a goddess, so too does this wine tempt the senses as it shimmers in the glass. Chardonnay from the Russian River Valley has many recognizable traits due to the long, warm, sunny days and cool, foggy, coastal nights. So much of this is expressed through a delicate, yet pronounced balance of texture, volume and vibrant acidity. This bottling represents my desire to produce a Chardonnay that remains true to its roots and, more importantly, cannot be resisted.