

# BENTON-LANE

## 2023 WILLAMETTE VALLEY CHARDONNAY



**VARIETAL** 100% Chardonnay

**APPELLATION** Willamette Valley

**AGING** 10 months in French oak barrels | 13% new

**FINAL ANALYSIS** TA: 7.1 | pH: 3.17 | Alcohol: 13%

Established in 1988, our 317-acre wooded estate in Oregon's Willamette Valley was born from the pioneering spirit of discovery and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

### THE VINTAGE

The winter of 2023 was cold and long with over 2,800 chilling hours. This resulted in a late but even energetic bud break in early May. We experienced the highest Growing Degree Days accumulation ever recorded throughout May (321 GDD), which made up for the late start and led to an early bloom on June 6th. After a warm and dry summer, we had a 2-week period of milder temperatures and cloudier skies that gave the flavors enough time to catch up with sugars, producing concentrated and flavorful grapes. Harvest commenced on September 10th.

### VINIFICATION

Our Chardonnay was hand-picked early in the morning and gently whole cluster pressed. To express each block to its fullest, we treated a portion of the wine reductively, protecting the juice from oxygen, and the rest with a more oxidative approach. The juice settled for 24 hours in tanks, was racked, and adjusted to desired turbidity before cold fermentation lasting up to 30 days. Primary fermentation occurred naturally in tanks to preserve freshness. After dry, the wine underwent partial malolactic conversion. The wine was barreled down and aged on lees for 10 months with bâtonnage every two weeks until reaching perfect balance before bottling.

### TASTING NOTES

Our 2023 Benton-Lane Chardonnay showcases remarkable freshness and complexity. The nose presents citrus blossom, flinty minerality, lemon, and grapefruit peel. It evolves with notes of white flowers, green apricots, and toasted almonds. The palate entry is round and rich, balanced by energetic acidity that complements the back-palate phenolics, resulting in a harmonious wine with tension and a lingering finish.

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