



## 2018 Stuhlmuller Vineyard Chardonnay



APPELLATION  
Alexander Valley

BLEND  
100% Chardonnay

OAK  
30% New French Oak  
16 months in French Oak

ALCOHOL: 13.2%  
TA: 5.7 g/L  
pH: 3.43  
RS: Dry  
CASES: 167

### GROW

Stuhlmuller Vineyard is located within the AVA of Alexander Valley, but the vineyard also borders the Chalk Hill and Russian River Valley AVA's. This special vineyard site is well suited for the ideal growing conditions for this unique, old clone of Chardonnay named the "Gauer Upper Barn Clone." Originally planted in the 1970's, most of these vines are a half-century old. The diurnal swings in temperatures at the vineyard provides enough heat for the flavors to fully develop, but is cool enough to delay ripening in order to achieve balance and a longer hang time.

### MAKE

The grapes were gently hand-harvested before dawn to ensure cold fruit arrives at the winery, where it was whole-cluster pressed. The juice was cold settled and racked before being barrel fermented in 100% French oak. After fermentation the wine was kept on the lees and stirred every two weeks until malolactic fermentation was finished in late spring. Aged over 16 months before being minimally fined and filtered right before bottling.

### TASTE

Lemon blossoms and baked apple aromas combine with graham cracker and orange rinds, foreshadowing the flavors to come. The entry is rich and unctuous, giving way to a bright and refreshing lemon-citrus finish. The palate is left with flavors of freshly baked lemon bars and honey-dipped apples.

### POINTS OF DISTINCTION

- Purest expression of warmer area Chardonnay.
- This block is only about 400 feet from the actual Russian River as it winds its way south through Sonoma County.



*"I have always thought that warmer areas for Chardonnay could make some of the greatest Chardonnays if treated correctly. I try to minimize barrel and Malolactic flavors, allowing the pure fruit to be displayed. I have found that neutral 300L large French oak barrels work well with bringing out the fruit flavors of Stuhlmuller Vineyard."* WINEMAKER  
Brandon Lapides