

MARTIN RAY WINERY  
2001 MARIAGE CHARDONNAY  
RUSSIAN RIVER



TECHNICAL NOTES

**Varietal:** 100% Chardonnay

**Harvest Dates:**

September 10–13, 2001

**Brix at Harvest:** 24°

**Alcohol:** 13.6%

**Total Acidity:** .60

**pH:** 3.52

**Quantity Produced:** 3,400 cases

*“Great wine lights a fire in the soul.”*—MARTIN RAY

THE VINEYARDS

Martin Ray coined the French term “Mariage” to describe “marrying” the best grapes from different vineyards to produce the finest wines. In following this tradition, the grapes for our 2001 Martin Ray Chardonnay are a unique blend of vineyards carefully selected from the cool Russian River Valley. Opulent tropical fruit flavors emerge from the grapes picked from Heintz Vineyards, in the heart of the Russian River Valley, not far from where the river changes its course to flow into the ocean. Grapes harvested from the rolling hills of Laguna Ranch at the eastern end of the valley add rich fruit characteristics.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2001 vintage had a shaky start with frosty nights in April. Full flower came in mid-May, so it was no surprise when harvest started early. June brought a series of heat waves and the vines responded by furiously growing shoots and leaves, creating a lush canopy. The vineyard workers struggled to keep pace with the growth. July, August and September were mild allowing the grapes time not only to ripen but also to mature. The fruit came in evenly and in superb condition.

WINEMAKER’S NOTES

I firmly believe that the Martin Ray “Mariage” concept—combining the best grapes from various vineyards, allows us greater latitude to choose only the best vineyard lots, which in turn consistently results in a more substantial Chardonnay. I have taken a traditional approach to both the winemaking and the final blending of the Martin Ray Chardonnay. Martin Ray summarized this method elegantly when he said: “We add nothing to our wines, nor do we take anything from them. With infinite care, we leave them alone.” The 2001 “Mariage” Russian River Valley Chardonnay begins with aromas of ripe tropical fruit. The wine’s superior structure and balance has a backbone of apple, pineapple and citrus flavors that continue flawlessly on to a ripe and elegant finish.