

2011 Russian River Valley Chardonnay

Inman Family Wines is best known for Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris, the varietals grown at the Inman's Olivet Grange Estate vineyard, but in 2008 winemaker Kathleen Inman decided to try her hand at the other classic Burgundian varietal, Chardonnay. The decision came as a result of Kathleen's preference for the leaner more elegant chardonnays of Chablis and Meursault and a personal challenge from her husband to see if she could create a Russian River Valley wine with bright acidity, little or no tropical fruit flavors and a creamy texture from malolactic fermentation without the unpleasant butteriness so often found in 100% MLF chardonnays.

The 2011 Inman Family Chardonnay has a rich fruit profile of lemons, apples, and Asian pears that is drinking very well young. The 2011 exhibits delicate secondary notes minerals and sea shells - all with amazingly low alcohol. Indeed, this is a unique expression of Russian River Valley Chardonnay with some new French oak, full malolactic yet remains bright and juicy.

Appellation: Russian River Valley

Tasting Notes:

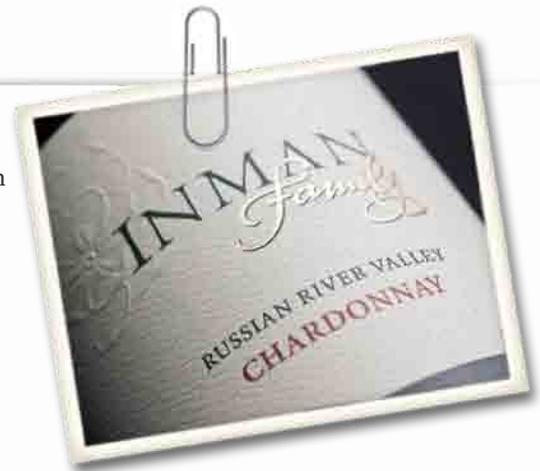
Color: Pale Straw

Aroma: Tart lemon, wet rocks and toasted hazelnuts

Flavor: Rich texture with a crisp finish and plenty of acidity. Delicate secondary notes of minerals and sea shells accompany juicy flavors of crisp apple, pear and lemon peel.

Winemaker Notes:

The fruit was picked by hand at first light and brought to the winery before 9am to ensure the fruit was cold. BRIX at harvest was 22 and total acidity was 1.1 mg/L. The 1/2 ton macro bins were protected by dampened cotton cloths to ensure the fruit remained cold while waiting in the vineyard for transport to the winery. The bins were dumped directly to press for whole cluster pressing. The juice was cold settled overnight and then pushed to barrels. A combination of new and one-year old 3-year air-dried Vosges Oak barrels from Cadus and small stainless steel barrels were used. The wine was left to ferment using native yeast and native bacteria completed malolactic fermentation in all barrels. The wine was stirred weekly until MLF was complete and monthly thereafter. The wine was bottled in Late Spring 2011.



Wine Specs

Vintage 2011

Varietal Chardonnay

Appellation Russian River Valley

Alcohol % 12.6%

Production 650 Cases