

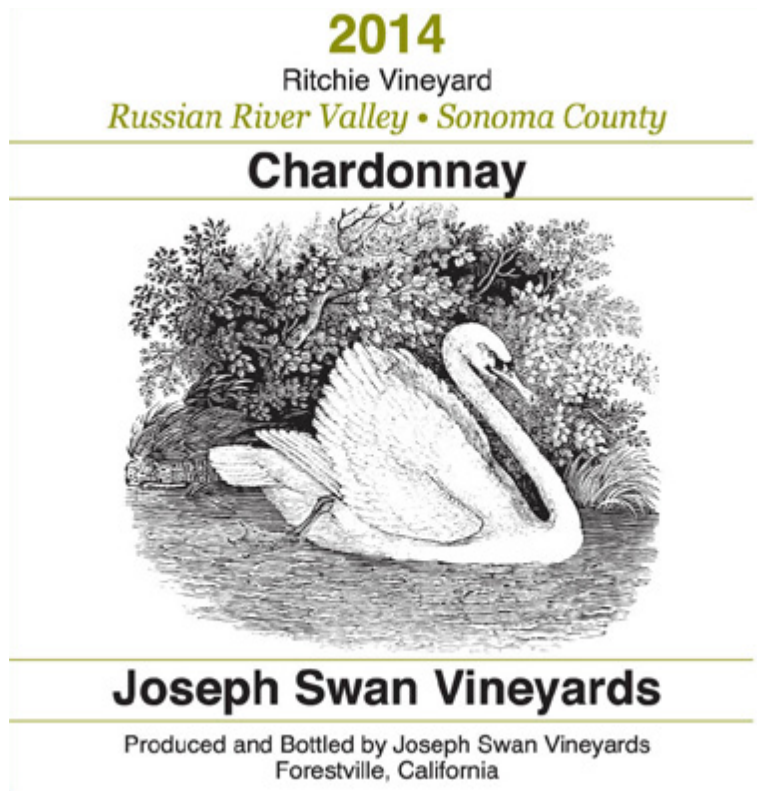
JOSEPH SWAN VINEYARDS

2916 LAGUNA ROAD, FORESTVILLE, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY.
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2014 Chardonnay - Ritchie Vineyard - Russian River Valley

THE VINEYARD:

Located in the heart of the Russian River Valley, this wine comes from one of the oldest blocks of the vineyard. The vineyard is highly coveted with numerous winemakers sourcing from here. Everyone gets their own dedicated row (or half as the case may be). However, not all Ritchie Vineyard wines are created equal. Throw in personal preferences with at least one winery picking 2 weeks ahead of everyone else and a couple wineries on the other end of the spectrum. Leads to some very diverse wines. We fall somewhere in the middle.



WINEMAKING:

This old vine chardonnay was destemmed immediately after harvesting and pressed into tank for sediment to settle out naturally overnight. Then, the juice was fermented in 30% new French oak barrels, the remainder in neutral French oak barrels, and aged sur lies with battonage (lees stirring) once a month. Full malolactic fermentation took place. The wine was aged 10 months in barrel before bottling. 14.5%ABV. 170 cases produced.

THE WINE:

Bright lemon yellow color. Ripe pear with lemon custard and a hint of mango. Classic Ritchie profile and aromatics are present. Very rich, very full opulence balanced by good acidity. Long, full fruit. A fine counterpart to its stablemate Kent the Younger.