

# JOSEPH SWAN VINEYARDS

2916 LAGUNA ROAD, FORESTVILLE, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY.  
SONOMA COUNTY, CA 95436 PHONE 707.573.3747 www.SwanWinery.com

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## 2016 Chardonnay - Cuveé de Trois - Russian River Valley

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### THE VINEYARDS:

Consisting of three of the Russian River Valley “Neighborhoods”. The Cuveé de Trois is made with grapes from Ritchie Vineyard in the Middle Reach, Hawk Hill Vineyard in the Sebastopol Hills, and our Trenton Estate Vineyard in the Laguna Ridge.

### WINEMAKING:

When relying on feral (native) yeasts for fermentation of chardonnay, you occasionally have barrels that are slow to complete. Such was the case in 2016. As long as there are viable yeast present and actually fermentation taking place (albeit slowly) we prefer to let nature take its course. Some barrels in 2016 really tested our resolve, taking nearly two years to complete their fermentation. In the end, we decided to create a small lot blend, using some of the Ritchie, Hawk Hill and our Trenton Estate wines. The long aging on the lees had resulted in yeast autolysis, the same process that gives some champagnes their creamy bread dough notes, resulting in wines that were more about process than place.

### THE WINE:

Wonderfully rich and complex. The rich fruit of each of the three vineyards is there but the forward fruit has been modified and complimented with a wonderful, mouth filling impression of flaky pastry dough, sort of like a freshly baked apple and pear tart. The balancing acidity keeps everything in balance. This wine reminds me of a wine made by Matanzas Creek Winery back in the 80’s. They called it Journey, in reference to the long time it took from grape to bottle and the many changes it made along the way, from fresh and fruity to a dark place before it came out the other side as a totally different wine. Sadly, I was only able to taste it once as it sold out instantly, but I always felt that it would continue to evolve much like a grand marque champagne. I have no idea if I was correct but I am going to following this one with keen interest.

