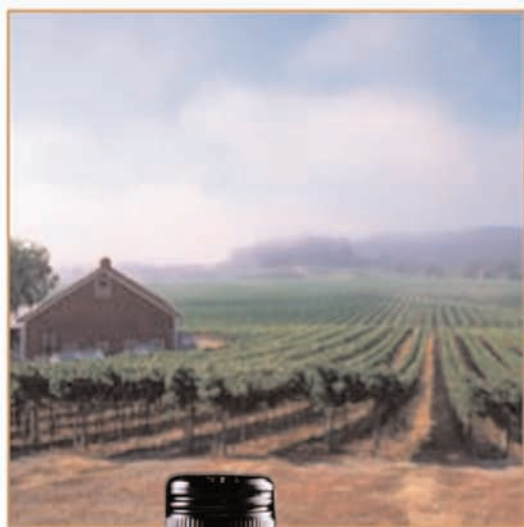


VINTAGE 2002

# Founders Reserve

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY



## AN EXCLUSIVE OFFERING

Founders Reserve defines rare, limited production offerings available only for a select few. With each vintage, five special barrels are set aside after special consideration and evaluation. While sourcing may change season to season, in most years the wine traces back to a single block of an exceptional vineyard. Founders Reserve is the hallmark of the vintage, the one wine that stands alone, offering a clear and unequivocal statement that will stand the test of time.

## THE VINTAGE SELECTION

Block A/B of the famed Cutrer Vineyard, first planted in 1972, has often been the focus of Founders Reserve, and no wonder. On a slightly raised knoll with a gentle slope to the South, vines that have watched three decades pass in the Russian River Valley are fully mature, offering in this vintage a scant 1.5 tons per acre of exceptional fruit. Each year these vines, planted with the well proven Clone 4 in a sandy clay loam called Wilson Grove, form the backbone of the Cutrer blend. The well drained soil is geologically characterized as old Merced Sea Bottom, with layers of decomposing fossilized sea shells. The Pacific Ocean lies just beyond the hills, bringing frequent morning fog to caress the grapes, even as the steady afternoon breezes chase the fog away.

## TASTING NOTES FROM WINEMAKER TERRY ADAMS

Founders Reserve 2002 has a beautiful appearance of gold with green highlights, the color of youthful, sound Chardonnay. The wine is perfectly clear, although bottled without filtering.

In the glass, aromas of toasty baked apple and cream rise to be joined with subtle mineral notes and hints of sour apple candies, completing the impression of a full, rich bountiful nose.

In the mouth the wine is sensual and exotic, rich and creamy, tasting well-balanced and fully ripe. Flavors of lichee, apple, cardamom, nutmeg and sliced fresh pineapple tantalize the palate. The mouthfeel is unctuous, and incredibly focused and refined notes of mineral and lime emerge as the finish fades to an echo of creamy custard.

This is a wine worthy of attention, evolving in the glass and becoming ever more youthful and refined for the lucky few who will experience its charm.

## LIMITED RELEASE

100% Chardonnay, 14.4% Alcohol

## PLEASE ENJOY OUR WINES RESPONSIBLY.

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V I N E Y A R D S