



2013 Illume



Harvest Dates: September 25 – October 10, 2013

Alcohol: 14.2%

pH: 3.4

Brix: 25.8

Barrel Fermentation & Aging: 100% French oak, 10% of which was new oak.
Fermented and aged 14 months sur lies

Varietal: 100% Chardonnay

Appellation: Dutton Ranch, Russian River Valley

Vineyards: Mill Station (50%), Sullivan (50%)

Bottle Date: December 8, 2014 – unfined and unfiltered

Release Date: May 1, 2015

Production: 241 cases

Illume is a blend of two vineyards in Dutton Ranch - Mill Station and Sullivan. Universally regarded as one of the finest Chardonnay vineyards in California, the Dutton family's vineyards are located in the Russian River Valley of Sonoma County about 10 miles from the Pacific Ocean. It is one of the coolest grape growing locations in Sonoma and Napa Counties, reflected in the fact that apples were long the principal local crop, not grapes. The slowly ripened grapes from the 39-year-old vines produce a Burgundian style wine with a balance of ripe intensity, subtle elegance, and great depth.

Growing Season:

The 2013 harvest can be summed up in one word, outstanding. The growing season got off to an early start with a nice, warm, dry spring that allowed for healthy, early season vine growth and abundant fruit set. Ideal growing conditions continued through the warm summer, resulting in uniform ripening and healthy crop sizes that were thinned to achieve vine balance.

Near-perfect harvest conditions, with no heat spikes, enabled our growers to pick each vineyard and block when the fruit reached peak maturity. The result was a stellar vintage defined by clean, outstanding fruit with balanced acidity, tannins and sugar levels. In fact, 2013 joins with the highly praised 2012 growing season to form what is widely considered the two best consecutive growing seasons in over twenty years.

Tasting Notes:

Bright gold in color with ripe tropical fruit scents dominating the nose, Illume fleshes out beautifully on the mid-palate with layers of fruit balanced by crisp acidity and minerality. Pears, flowers and subtle hints of earthiness come to life on the finish. While Illume will continue to evolve and gain additional complexity with a few years of bottle age, this food-friendly wine is already drinking beautifully today.

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