

DILLON



2017 RESERVE CHARDONNAY

HARVESTED		September 27, 2017
AVA VINEYARD		Royal Slope Stillwater Creek
BOTTLED		August 5th, 2019
COMPOSITION		100% Chardonnay
ALCOHOL		14%
RELEASE DATE		Spring, 2021



VINTAGE NOTES

The 2017 vintage began cool and wet, and these cool temperatures lasted through mid-to-late spring. Many growers thought we may have another cooler vintage, similar to 2011. However, early summer finally rolled around and the temperatures were back near historical averages. By late summer, the above average temperatures helped the vines catch up to previous warm vintages. This helped create the structure and a depth of concentration, while the milder autumn temperatures observed during harvest allowed for higher acidity than in previous warm vintages. The result is wines that have a great sense of balance; boldness and concentration, along with minerality and tension.

WINEMAKING NOTES

Hand-picked whole-clusters were field-sorted, lightly foot crushed and held overnight. The following morning we loaded the press cylinder and pressed long and slow. No SO₂ was added. Juice from the press was pumped directly into 85% new French oak barrels and a neutral puncheon and carefully monitored. Native yeast fermented, the barrels were stirred only as needed to encourage the process. Primary fermentation lasted for 5 months. Native malolactic fermentation completed in July 2018. After an extended 22 months of total barrel age, the wine was racked and finished with a light polish filtration. Twenty four months in bottle before release.

TASTING NOTES

Cassic DILLON Chardonnay textural profile - full-bodied, with grip, tension and salinity. This broad and concentrated barrel-aged Chardonnay opens with Crème brûlée and sandalwood with a nice layer of lemon curd followed by hints of crushed rocks and winter spice. The textural and layered entry is complimented by balanced acidity and a clean and pleasantly endless finish. This wine will continue to evolve for years to come. Drink from now through 2025.

VINEYARD

Stillwater Creek Vineyard is a 235 acre site on the Royal Slope of the Frenchman Hills. Planted in 2000, the Chardonnay lies at 1500' elevation on a mixture of fractured basalt and fine sandy loam along the site's gentle north facing slopes.

