

## 2013 Walter Hansel "Estate" Russian River Valley Chardonnay

SKU #1221572

### 91 points Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

“ There are 1,260 cases of the 2013 Chardonnay Estate, a great bargain. At a retail price of \$25 a bottle, it is hard to get more flavor and complexity in a Chardonnay than this cuvée possesses. Notes of poached pear, honeysuckle and white peach notes are offered in an elegant, medium-bodied, lively style. Like all of the Walter Hansel Chardonnays, it went through 100% malolactic fermentation, and was aged 10 months in 30-40% new French oak. Consume it over the next 5-6 years. ” (12/2014)

### 91 points Vinous

“ The 2013 Chardonnay Estate is another superb value from Hansel. Lemon peel, honey, almonds, wild flowers and mint are all laced into the super-expressive finish. In this vintage, the Estate is subtle, polished and exceptionally beautiful. Best of all, it is a fabulous value. Stephen Hansel is one of the most intelligent winery owners in Sonoma. More interested in getting people to drink his wines than in maximizing short-term profit, Hansel continues to offer some of the very best wines readers will find for the money. In particular, the Estate Chardonnay, \$25 a bottle, is surely one of the best values in wine. The Hansel wines capture the essence of the Russian River in their exuberant, forward personalities. In my view, the Chardonnays are reference points for what Wente clone Chardonnay is all about. The Chardonnays see some lees stirring and spend about ten months in oak...After the large crop of 2012, Hansel dropped a significant amount of fruit in 2013, roughly 60% of the Pinot crop and 30% of the Chardonnay crop. Quality is high across the board and pricing remains incredibly consumer friendly throughout the range, making these some of the most delicious and compelling Sonoma wines readers will come across. Stephen Hansel also runs a number of successful car franchises in the area and clearly has a knack for putting the consumer first. What's not to like? ” (1/2015)

