

# HAUTE LIVING

S A N F R A N C I S C O



Encompassing verdant valleys, fertile forests, and craggy coastline, Sonoma County is one of California's most eclectic regions. So it stands to reason that its vinous output is equally eclectic. More than 60 grape varieties are grown within the county's 1500 square miles of variable terrain, within which 18 American Viticultural Areas (AVA) are denoted. Yet, Chardonnay is the most abundant varietal. And the variations in expression are as sundry as the region's topographical diversity. It is no stretch to claim that Sonoma County is helping to expand the definition of what a great Chardonnay can and should be. Here are some of our current favorites:

## **Gary Farrell 2019 Olivet Lane Chardonnay (\$50)**

Since the late 1970's, Gary Farrell Winery has specialized in Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from some of the top vineyards in the Russian River Valley. Today, the winery team's immense knowledge of this picturesque, redwood-studded wine region 55 miles north of San Francisco is illustrated in the wide variety of labels, each from a different vineyard, and each displaying subtle differences reflective of their acreage of origin. **This Chardonnay** is from the Pellegrini Olivet Lane Vineyard, planted in 1975 on 65 acres of sloping benchland in the Santa Rosa Plain, in between the warmer Westside Road region and the cooler Green Valley. The combination of low temperatures, regular fog intrusion, and well-drained loam, clay soils create an excellent environment for growing Chardonnay. Incredibly

fresh and energetic, this wine features a complex bouquet of Meyer lemon, stone fruit, graphite, honeysuckle, lemongrass, and baked pear tart. The first sip is succulent and tangy, while the mid-palate is zesty with lots of verve. It finishes with a silky pop of acidity.

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