



PATZ & HALL

## 2009 DUTTON RANCH - RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY CHARDONNAY

**Vineyard Character:** Produced from some of the oldest plantings of Chardonnay in western Sonoma County, this wine is predominantly a blend of California heritage clones and selections—Robert Young, Rued, Hyde-Wente, UC Davis clone 4 and Spring Mountain. Mostly dry-farmed, the vines struggle to produce small but intensely concentrated berries, making for great depth of flavor and texture. Historically, this vineyard yields fragrant, tropical aromatics, underscored by a crisp mineral character.

**Tasting Notes:** The nose of this wine offers penetrating high-tone floral and tropical notes with a beautiful spicy element. The use of a little more wild yeast in '09 has also accentuated layers of hazelnut, graham cracker and peach cobbler in the aromatics. On the palate, this is one of the richest and most deeply textured expressions of Dutton Ranch Chardonnay we have produced, highlighting lush flavors of peach, pear, green apple and marzipan. A product of another exceptional growing season, this wine balances the flamboyant character often associated with a warmer vintage, with the bright acidity and sleek minerality more common in cooler years.

**Winemaking:**

100% Chardonnay fruit  
Whole-cluster pressed  
Multi-yeast fermentations (wild & cultured)  
*Sur lie* aged with weekly stirring  
100% malo-lactic fermentation in barrel  
40% new Burgundian French oak barrels

**Release Date: November 2010**

### THE PATZ & HALL FAMILY OF WINEGROWERS

*Gail, Steve and Joe Dutton –Dutton Ranch - Russian River Valley, Sonoma County*

In 1969, Warren Dutton planted some of the first Chardonnay vines in western Sonoma. Sons Steve and Joe Dutton, along with their mother Gail, carry on in Warren's footsteps with what is now one of Sonoma County's most successful vineyard operations. We are able to select from seven blocks of Chardonnay largely planted with California heirloom clones (Robert Young, Rued, Hyde-Wente and UC Davis clone 4) for the Dutton Ranch Chardonnay bottling.

**James Hall**  
Winemaker