

Ernest Vineyards

Ernest Vineyards was co-founded by Todd Gottula and Erin Brooks in 2012. The name of the wines and the venture were inspired by Gottula's grandfather, Ernest, who's entrepreneurial spirit and depth of character provided an example this husband and wife team wanted to carry forward. This earnestness drives Gottula, Brooks, and their winemaker, Joseph Ryan, in creating attainable wines of restraint modeled off of excellent Burgundies.



Ernest extends beyond the owners and winemaker in the form of their bond with the independent growers who farm the land. Hailing from agricultural families, both Gottula and Brooks rely upon these personal relationships with 15 different farmers in Sonoma County representing 17 unique sites totaling 24 acres of vines. Each site has been selected for its own unique terroir, but the common through-line is colder climate sites that historically maintain lower air temperatures during the growing season compared to the rest of Sonoma. The goal is to maintain tension in the wine, maintaining high-acid and low alcohol without losing the diversity of each site's climate and soil. Minimal oak is used in the *élevage* to ensure that the wines are balanced and smooth.

The Edaphos wines are an additional label produced by Gottula, Brooks, and Ryan. Edaphos is Greek for "base," "ground" or "soil." So, it is appropriate that Edaphos Wines are occasionally referred to as their "sandbox." This line of wines is a chance to work with off-the-beaten-path varietals in small lots, and provides the team to try new approaches to winemaking while opening up new possibilities for the growing community of Ernest Vineyards' fans.

The Farmer Chardonnay



Varietal/Blend: Chardonnay
Farming Practices: low impact farming
Vineyard: Cleary Ranch Vineyard
Vineyard Size: 6 acres
Harvest Technique: by hand
Yeast: selected
Fermentation: direct press to stainless steel tank
Malolactic: yes
Maturation: neutral French oak
Alcohol: 12.66%
Fined: no
Filtered: yes
Country: United States
Region: California
Subregion: West Sonoma Coast
Production #s: 88 12-packs

THE VINEYARD: Downslope from his father's Freestone Hill Vineyard, John Cleary and his family have their own parcel of West Sonoma Coast vineyard land: this 6-acre plot.

Ernest has leased and farmed this site since 2015 which, as our coldest vineyard, is a challenging task in even the best years.

LABEL STORY: Todd's maternal grandparents left Orange County, California, and relocated to an 80-acre farm in the Central Valley. The change necessitated adjustments, but The Farmer, Grandpa Ray, kept at it, learning as he went and helping to raise adventuresome children and grandchildren.

TASTING NOTES: White gold in hue with an unmistakable tension revealing itself amongst aromatics of bright acidity, pear, and honeydew. Green apples, blood oranges and unripe pears meet a slightly toasted nuttiness on the palate all framed by pronounced acid and complex texture.