



# SUACCI CARCIERE

## 2006 CHARDONNAY

Heintz Vineyard / Russian River Valley

### *The Winery*

Based in the small Russian River Valley town of Sebastopol, Suacci-Carciere released its inaugural wines in 2007. These wines capture the owners' commitment to showcasing small, artisan vineyards of the cool western Sonoma County winegrowing region. Suacci-Carciere wines offer broad fruit flavors, fresh, crisp structure, and notable depth, complexity and texture. We hope you enjoy our wines as much as we enjoyed crafting them.

### *Grape Source: Heintz Vineyard*

Owned and managed by Charlie Heintz, the Vineyard is located just outside of the town of Occidental, and is one of the best known and most sought-after Chardonnay vineyards in that part of the valley. At the confluence of the Russian River Valley appellations, Sonoma Coast and Green Valley, the vineyards are diligently farmed by hand. The Russian River Valley vineyard block where this wine is sourced is noted for producing Chardonnay with exceptional complexity and crisp, bright, layered flavors.

### *Vintage Notes*

The 2006 vintage was a repeat of 2005 with cooler-than-normal temperatures allowing even ripening at Heintz vineyard. Besides a short July heat spike, the vintage was very even-keeled. Foggy days as harvest time approached allowed fruit an extended hang time on the vine, encouraging full flavor development yet maintaining acidity. Scattered rain showers prior to harvest put growers on alert for mold and rot pressure. Luckily, we were able to harvest the fruit and get it in to the winery before any of those problems arose. Low alcohol levels, bright acidity and intense flavors were the hallmarks of the vintage.

### *Winemaking Techniques*

Picked by hand on October 21st, the fruit was fermented in 50% stainless steel and 50% French oak to create good balance between crisp flavors and round mouthfeel. Higher acidity of the temperate vintage called for 100% malolactic fermentation with aggressive lees stirring to add creamy, round tones, while maintaining the desired backbone and crispness in the wine. Eleven months in barrel added additional complexity and subtle vanilla tones on the finish.

### *Winemaker Notes*

This year's ultra-cool vintage lent itself to a more focused, lower alcohol, higher acid wine that is nicely rounded out by French Oak. Vivid aromas of lemon, apple and minerals continue through to the palate, and a firm acid base keeps the wine fresh and crisp. A beautifully balanced mouthfeel marks this wine as a fine Russian River Valley Chardonnay, but is also faintly reminiscent of French Chablis. An excellent food wine.

### *Technical Notes*

<i>Appellation:</i>	Russian River Valley
<i>Composition:</i>	100% Chardonnay
<i>Time in Barrel:</i>	11 months
<i>Alcohol:</i>	14.1%
<i>T.A.:</i>	.7
<i>pH:</i>	3.50
<i>Cases Produced:</i>	97



Proprietors: Andy Carciere and John D. Suacci  
Winemaker: Ryan Zepaltas