



## Iron Horse Vineyards 2002 Corral Vineyard Chardonnay Technical Data

**Appellation:** Sonoma County-Green Valley

**Winemaker's Tasting Notes:** 2002 is an exceptional vintage for Sonoma County Chardonnay - especially in Green Valley, at Iron Horse in particular and even more precisely for our very special Corral Vineyard on the Iron Horse estate. This is our third release of Corral Vineyard Chardonnay. It tastes like a sublime crème brulee - rich and mouthfilling, yet light, bright and firm around the edges. The oak is perfectly integrated and lends a slight "burnt" touch which further enchances the comparison with crème brulee.

**Natural Farming Philosophy:** We believe wine is made in the vineyard. In fact, partner and chief winemaker Forrest Tancer calls himself a "wine grower". The creek beds intersecting the property have been allowed to return to their natural state, harboring a natural balance of insects, allowing for minimal intervention. The soil is enriched with our own grape and vegetable compost. We maintain a variety of cover crops for further amelioration and to prevent erosion.

**Vineyard Specifics:** The grapes for this Chardonnay come from 8.3 acres planted along the back side of an old, 1920's rewood corral on the southern edge of the Iron Horse estate, where the fog first touches the vineyard at dusk and is also naturally the last place where the fog recedes in the morning.

**Average Age of the Vines:** 17 years at harvest.

**Harvest Dates:** September 27, 2002.

**Winemaking Techniques:** The grapes are pressed as whole clusters - just as we do with Sparkling Wines. Winemaking variations such as using different strains of yeast and varying percentages of malolactic fermentation are chosen barrel by barrel.

**Barrels:** 100% barrel fermented  
**Blend:** 100% Chardonnay  
**Malolactic Fermentation:** 60%  
**Date Bottled:** September 2003  
**Residual Sugar:** 0.10 g/100ml

**Alcohol:** 14.5% v/v  
**Acidity:** 0.51 g/100ml  
**pH:** 3:36  
**Release Date:** December 2004  
**Total Production:** 530 cases  
**Suggested Retail Price:** \$32/bottle