

## 2013 PONZI AURORA CHARDONNAY



“This beautiful wine shows aromatics of guava, balsa, yellow kiwi and lemon panna cotta. The deep palate and lightly textured palate gives prominent minerality of river rocks, some white pepper and slight sagebrush. The finish is finessed, long and bright.”

—WINEMAKER LUISA PONZI

**RELEASE DATE:**

*October 2015*

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:**

*\$63.*

**VINTAGE 2013:** The season started with a warm spring bringing an early bud break. From that point the growing season remained warm and dry leading us to believe we would have an early, uneventful harvest. All went as planned until the last week in September when the tail end of a Japanese typhoon dropped close to 6 inches of rain on the valley and completely saturated the vineyards. This is when it got interesting!

Having seen many wet vintages in Oregon we had some ideas on how to handle it; using helicopters to dry the vines, multiple picking passes, extensive sorting before destemming and very careful winemaking among other methods. October saved us with three long weeks of dry, breezy days allowing the fruit left on the vines to reach optimum flavor without any dilution from rain.

**VINEYARDS:** The Chardonnay grapes for this single vineyard cuvée were grown at Ponzi’s LIVE Certified Sustainable Aurora Vineyard located in the Chehalem Mountains AVA.

**FERMENTATION:** The grapes for this wine were sorted and whole cluster pressed, the juice settled for 12 hours before going to barrel for fermentation. Using 30% new French oak and 70% neutral French oak the cool temperature wild yeast fermentations continued well into the spring of 2014. Malolactic fermentation is 100% completed with wild bacteria. Lees are stirred weekly for 6 months before a fall racking to neutral oak and bottling in the spring of 2015. Aged in barrel for 18 months and in bottle for 6 months before release. Alcohol is 13.3% and pH is 3.42.