



Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine  
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**2006 C. DONATIELLO**  
**Chardonnay Orsi Vineyard Russian River Valley**

**90** ✿

Both of Donatiello's top-rated Chardonnay bottlings balance size and richness against fairly firm structures, and, while each proves to be pleasant and successful, this one is the slightly preferred of a fine pair. Its generous nose of roasted lemons, vanilla and sweet toast is followed up with like-minded flavors that are underlain with a distinct minerally streak. It firms up in the latter going yet hangs on very well at the finish, and all signs point to better if it is set aside for a couple of years. **\$38.00**

**2006 C. DONATIELLO**  
**Pinot Noir Russian River Valley**

**89** ✿

The keenly focused scents of Russian River Pinot Noir are plainly in evidence in this wine's mid-volume aromas, and even though its siblings are more intense, this one is our choice for its inviting fruit. It is slightly rounded in feel and hints of a suppleness that seems sure to come with age, and while this is not a wine meant for long-keeping it will reward a few years of patience in order to fill up and round out. **\$48.00**

**2006 C. DONATIELLO**  
**Chardonnay Russian River Valley**

**88** ✿

Despite its initial impressions of juicy and accessible, ripe-apple fruit, this offering proves to be tighter on the palate than billed, and it is a wine whose firm structure and good fruit set it apart from the crowd. If finished with a slightly hard edge, the wine is charged with lots of lingering fruit, and, like its partner, it will show better if held for a bit. **\$28.00**

**2006 C. DONATIELLO**  
**Pinot Noir Maddie's Vineyard Russian River Valley**

**88** ✿

The crown jewel in the Donatiello tiara, this vineyard is located in the middle of the best performing dirt along Westside Road (think Williams Selyem, Gary Farrell and others), but, in this vintage, the wine finds its ripe side in slightly uncomfortable juxtaposition with latter palate acidity and a fair dollop of finishing tannin. It needs a fair bit of patient cellaring in order to knit together. **\$61.00**