

Foley
2015
CHARDONNAY
STA. RITA HILLS
JA RANCH

The Brand Series honors the relatives of vintner Bill Foley who settled the Texas Panhandle in the 1840s as ranchers, cattlemen and Texas Rangers. These wines combine noteworthy barrels from superior sites within our estate vineyards to unveil a unique facet or interpretation of a designated variety.

VINEYARD

There's only one way to describe the Rancho Santa Rosa Vineyard: *serene*. Located in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA of Santa Barbara County, these stunning hillsides feature vines that climb from 500 to 1,000 feet above sea level. The soils are marine-based and the weather is consistently cool thanks to moist ocean breezes that sweep the property daily. The vineyard is farmed with the painstaking care and attention usually associated with much smaller properties. In fact, this vineyard was originally conceived as a series of individual micro-vineyards delineated by soil, exposure, elevation, grade, rootstock and clone.

VINTAGE

The 2015 vintage was early and light yielding fruit with exceptional flavor concentration. The vines experienced no hard dormancy and above average temperatures in February resulting in an early bud break, flowering and fruit set. The drought caused the vines to struggle and produce smaller berry size and overall cluster size which resulted in high quality wines that are rich, complex and intense in character. Harvest occurred from August 19 - October 1, 2015.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were gently whole-cluster pressed and transferred to tank after harvest. After a day of cold-settling, the juice was racked to French oak barrels. It then underwent regular stirring of the lees for added texture and complexity. All lots were kept separate throughout vinification and aging to ensure character, distinctiveness and quality. After aging for 18 months in 30% new French and American oak barrels, the wine was bottled.

TASTING

This 2015 JA Ranch Chardonnay is the most Burgundian inspired of all the Foley Estates Chardonnays. Clone 76 used in this wine has a very lean profile of bright kiwi and citrus flower making it more austere profiled of all of our brand series wines. Flavors of delicate toasted French oak, wet stone and citrus fill the palate. Its lean profile coupled with its bright acidity make it a great pairing for a creamy lobster pasta.

APPELLATION	STA. RITA HILLS
VINEYARD	RANCHO SANTA ROSA EAST
COMPOSITION	100% CHARDONNAY
COOPERAGE	30% NEW FRENCH AND AMERICAN OAK; WORLD COOPERAGE & REMOND
AGING	18 MONTHS
ALCOHOL	14.3%
TA	6.9 c/L
PH	3.4
BOTTLING DATE	APRIL 6, 2017
PRODUCTION	378 CASES

