Filen 2019

CHARDONNAY BARREL SELECT STA. RITA HILLS

Located in the Santa Rita Hills AVA of Santa Barbara County, the stunning hillsides of the Rancho Santa Rosa Vineyard features 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 2019 growing season was notably cooler than average through spring and summer, but a burst of heat around Labor Day gave us the push we needed to increase Brix levels to their seasonal average. The disease pressure was low, but an anomaly of hard frost the first week of October forced us to bring the fruit in a hurry. Mother Nature delivered a roller coaster of weather, but with it came nuance and diversity of fruit expression.

## WINEMAKING

Barrel Select is the ultimate expression of cool-climate Chardonnay from our Rancho Santa Rosa Vineyard. Like a vinous jigsaw puzzle, it is an intricate assemblage of the most complex and concentrated fruit from the vintage. Following harvest, the grapes were gently wholecluster pressed and transferred to tank. The fruit was racked into 100% new French oak barrels where it underwent weekly stirring of the lees to add texture and complexity. After 18 months of aging, the wine was bottled.

## TASTING

Our Barrel Select Chardonnay is made from the best fruit from our Rancho Santa Rosa Vineyard. Big and bold, this wine offers intense aromas and flavors of Golden Delicious apples, ripe white nectarines and Key lime pie with notes of graham crust on the long finish.

APPELLATION STA. RITA HILLS COMPOSITION 100% CHARDONNAY AGING 18 MONTHS ALCOHOL 14.3% **PH** 3.37 BOTTLING DATE PRODUCTION

VINEYARD RANCHO SANTA ROSA COOPERAGE 100% NEW FRENCH OAK TA 7.1 G/L JUNE 8, 2021 284 CASES



STA. RITA HILLS CHARDONNAY BARREL SELECT