

## 2021 CHARDONNAY

T ANCHOR RANCH | STA. RITA HILLS

T Anchor Ranch Chardonnay, part of the Foley Brand Series, honors the relatives of vintner Bill Foley who settled the Texas Panhandle in the 1840s as ranchers, cattlemen and Texas Rangers. We hand select the best Chardonnay barrel lots from our estate vineyards to create a wine that is a unique interpretation of the varietal and beautiful vineyard ranches from which it comes.

VINEYARD Located in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA of Santa Barbara County, the grapes for this wine comes from stunning hillside vineyards that climb from 500 to 1,000 feet above sea level. The soils are marine-based and the weather is consistently cool thanks to ocean breezes that sweep the property daily. Originally conceived as a series of individual micro-vineyards delineated by soil, exposure, elevation, grade, rootstock, and clone, these vineyards are farmed with painstaking care and attention to detail.

VINTAGE The 2021 vintage was notably cooler during the growing season with a late start to harvest. Early bud break and mild spring weather continued into a cool summer. The quality of the grapes were good and acid levels remained balanced due to the moderate weather. Tremendous team effort and coordination truly made this season possible. Our first pick was September 8th and harvest was completed on October 23rd.

WINEMAKING The grapes were gently whole-cluster pressed, transferred to tank, cold settled and then racked to French oak barrels for fermentation. It 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 16 months in 30% new French oak barrels, the wine was bottled.

TASTING This wine marries sweet nuances of toasted graham and caramel with white flower, and fresh pineapple. The palate is beautifully balanced, the oak and acid providing structure for lemon citrus fruit and confectionery notes of vanilla wafer and honeycomb. A racy minerality lingers through the finish.

> APPELLATION Sta. Rita Hills | VINEYARD T Anchor Ranch COMPOSITION 100% Chardonnay COOPERAGE 16 months in French oak, 30% new ALCOHOL 14.5% | TA 6.18 g/L | pH 3.39

