

## 2023 CHARDONNAY

RANCHO SANTA ROSA | 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.

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 2023 was a cooler growing season overall, with moderate rainfall and later-than-average bud break. With proper canopy management, our reds developed high concentrations of color and tannin, and the whites retained austere fruit expression and natural, bright acidity. 2023 will be regarded as a vintage of great quality and of one of the most exceptional vintages in recent years.

WINEMAKING After harvest the grapes were gently whole-cluster pressed and transferred to tank. Following a day of cold-settling, the juice was inoculated and 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 17 months in 30% new French oak barrels, the wine was filtered and bottled.

TASTING The 2023 Chardonnay opens with aromas of toasted meringue, lemon curd, Fuji apple, and ripe banana. On the palate the wine has notes of brioche, hazelnut, candied lemon zest, brine, and vanilla wafer on the finish. This wine pairs beautifully with nutty cheese or a branzino filet.

> APPELLATION Sta. Rita Hills | VINEYARD Rancho Santa Rosa COMPOSITION 100% Chardonnay COOPERAGE 17 months in 30% new French oak ALCOHOL 14.3% | TA 6.3 g/L | pH 3.45

