



2016 CHARDONNAY REFERENCE GUIDE

LISTED FROM MOST FRESH AND MINERAL DRIVEN TO DENSE AND POWERFUL

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2016 vintage, blessed by winter and spring rainfall, marks a brief return to something resembling normality for Santa Barbara County. Crop set was good: somewhat below the region's historic average, but appreciably larger than the modest yields of 2015. The growing season itself was cool until a defining heat spike in September that precipitated a comparatively early harvest. The ensuing wines are more consistently excellent than the 2015s, generally displaying beautiful balance, bright fruit and excellent concentration. Across the whole range of Santa Barbara's broad stylistic spectrum, there are many outstanding wines to recommend.

- William Kelley, Wine Advocate

IN THE CELLAR WINEMAKING OVERVIEW

At harvest we take the whole Chardonnay clusters and press to tank, letting the juice settle briefly before moving to another tank where native fermentation begins. We then take the juice down to barrels and puncheons with no more than 15% new French oak. The wine receives little or no battonage and typically goes through a full malolactic fermentation. Once finished fermenting the wine then rest on lees for almost a year before being moved to tank for an additional few months of aging prior to bottling.

Every year, the number one objective during harvest is to catch the fruit at the optimal point of balance. This means carefully assessing the grapes acidity, flavors, texture, aromatics, pH, & sugar along with the weather, vine, and fruit health.

The 2016's are all about texture. Pure and wonderfully fragrant, they also possess a richness and power that's really impressive. Think of them as a wonderful cross between the perfume of 2014, with the power of 2013, and richness the 2015's offered.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



Sourced from various vineyard blocks within the Bien Nacido and Dierberg Vineyards of the Santa Maria Valley and the remaining portion coming from various Sta. Rita Hills vineyard sites. We feel this bottling is a true representation of the appellation as a whole. This wine sees less than 10% new French oak and is left to rest on its lees for about a year before being moved to tank for the last few months prior to bottling to ensure the wine's tension, elegance and precision. Flavors of citrus, green apple and white flower are fresh and lively on the palate.



Santa Barbara County

WA:90

ZOTOVICH FAMILY VINEYARD



Usually the first to harvest in the Sta. Rita Hills, this site planted in the mid 90's and purchased by Steve Zotovich in 2004, lies on the north side of the Sta. Rita Hills on the Highway 246 corridor. Situated

on a gentle, even slope with southern exposure, its soil is similar to a sand dune, and the most sandy of the vineyards we work with.

This 2016 bottling of Zotovich Vineyard chardonnay is the best in recent vintages. Sea air, Meyer lemon, star fruit and a mineral persistence showcase the marine influence of this site. Beautiful texture coming from the sandy soils, but still very chiseled and focused.

Block: 4 | Clone: 76 | Surface: .88 acres



Sta. Rita Hills



Spring Release

DIERBERG VINEYARD



The Dierberg Vineyard, planted in 1997, is situated in the south-west quadrant of the Santa Maria Valley AVA. The property consists of sandy loam soils from ancient sand dunes, once part of the sea floor.

Each vintage the Dierberg Vineyard chardonnay is always fresh and transparent. Floral and lifted, the 2016 show citrus blossom and white flower. It's light on its feet and energetic, crystalline in structure with a clean, and electric finish.

Block: 1D | Clone: 15 | Surface: 4.7 acres



Santa Maria Valley



Spring Release

WA:92+

LA RINCONADA VINEYARD



Planted in 1997 by Richard Sanford this site is situated next door and west of the famed Sanford & Benedict Vineyard. The vineyard's well drained soils are made up of shaley, clay loam from a decomposition of Monterey Shale. The addition of a heavy pacific fog influence makes this site ideal for cool climate varieties.

The most powerful, yet elegant chardonnay of the spring releases. Perceptible texture gives the wine great depth while remaining extremely focused with its long, persistent finish. Notes of yellow fruit, chamomile and anise.

Block: R2 | Clone: 15 | Surface: 1.25 acres



Sta. Rita Hills



Spring Release

WA:93