



VINEYARD SOURCES: 65% *Dierberg Vineyard*, 35% *Sierra Madre Vineyard*, *Santa Maria Valley*. These two Santa Maria Valley estates rank among the finest Chardonnay vineyards in Santa Maria Valley. Dierberg Vineyard is located on an undulating mesa about 13 miles from the Pacific Ocean and experiences cool summertime temperatures and abundant coastal fog. Planted in 1971, the iconic Sierra Madre Vineyard is situated at the cool western edge of the appellation. It enjoys an exceptionally cool growing season, encouraging slow ripening and long hang time for the grapes to develop excellent flavor intensity and complexity.

VINTAGE: Contrary to the erratic weather of the 2010 and 2011 vintages, 2012 featured very favorable, well timed weather patterns throughout the growing season. Winter rainfall was below average, but showers in March replenished the soil profile just as the vines were beginning the growth cycle. Consistently cool summer temperatures and several warm spells in September and October helped fully ripen the fruit. Crop size was characteristically small, which promoted concentration and complexity in the fruit.

WINEMAKING: This small bottling of Chardonnay was styled to showcase the fresh and dynamic fruit flavors inherent in Santa Maria Valley Chardonnay. The wine was 100% stainless steel fermented, safeguarding the integrity of the fruit. It was then aged for 6 months in French oak barrels, with 18% new French oak in the barrel mix, adding just the right touch of depth and complexity. The wine was bottled on July 26, 2013.

TASTING NOTES: This Chardonnay is crisp and bright with vibrant aromas of ripe pear, white peach and tropical fruit with hints of vanilla, citrus and fresh cream. On the palate, fresh apple flavors and undertones of tropical fruit are supported by a smooth texture that is nicely balanced by a refreshing sparkle of natural acidity. The wine culminates in a pleasing finish with a touch of lemon zest and French oak.

TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 6.3 g/l

pH: 3.38

Alcohol: 14.4%

Production: 98 cases