



2022 STA. RITA HILLS CHARDONNAY

Appellation	Sta. Rita Hills
T.A.	5.1 g/l
pH	3.68
Alcohol	13.1%
Production	181 cases

VINEYARDS

100% Donnchadh Vineyard

The Sta. Rita Hills consistently produces world-class Chardonnay. The cool climate and marine soils are perfectly suited to the varietal. Our 2022 Chardonnay was sourced from the Donnachadh vineyard, which sits on a sheltered patch of sandy loam above the Santa Ynez river. The vineyard is farmed organically. This wine was sourced from blocks planted to the 76 and Wente clones.

VINTAGE

The 2022 harvest was tracking to be a little later than usual, but Labor Day weekend brought a significant heat bump which accelerated the pace. Berry size was smaller than average, which resulted in smaller yields across the appellation this year. Chardonnay from Donnachadh was harvested on September 14th. The grapes were picked while still low in sugar, coming in at 21.1 brix, resulting in a delightfully refreshing wine.

WINEMAKING

Chardonnay clusters for this wine were whole-bunch pressed then transferred to French oak barrels where the juice was fermented using native yeasts. The wine then completed full malo-lactic fermentation. The wine was aged on its lees for 10 months in 16% new French oak. It was then sterile filtered and bottled on August 3rd, 2023.

TASTING NOTES

This wine is a classic example of Chardonnay from this amazing appellation. Aromas of green apples and white flowers prepare us for flavors of lemon, pineapple and hints of vanilla. The gentle acidity keeps the wine light and refreshing. This wine would make a lovely pairing for summer fare like grilled shrimp or a fennel and apple salad.