



BARDEN

2019 Chardonnay, STA. RITA HILLS

The BARDEN trade name is Doug Margerum's middle name and its English meaning is "Lives near the boar's den..." thusly, we have adorned the label with an image of the wild boar that is pervasive in our area's vineyards.

Barden Chardonnay is formed so as to touch the heart, mind, body and soul. It's wrapped in a cloak of mystery, lightly adorned and respected. Ours is a swirling worldly vision, moody but aware. We dared and entered this world with trepidation. We realize we are on the road to madness. It lives in the boar's den...~DM

Vineyard Region: Sta. Rita Hills – La Rinconada Vineyard clones 76 & 96 (43%), La Encantada Vineyard clone 76 & 15 (36%), Sanford & Benedict Vineyard (11%) and Donnachadh Vineyard clone 76 (10%).

Vintage Conditions: Santa Barbara County had a cool spring and mild summer temperatures that extended the growing season. Harvest began in the last half of August and the weather that followed had the usual summer heat waves. It was a very quick and even harvest with yields that were average to below average helping to produce pronounced flavors and aromatics. Most importantly for us is that we did not have the fires that plagued the vineyards to the north. We are very happy with the quality of the wine and the "numbers" (pH, TA, Alc.) have been right on resulting in very balanced wines.

Winemaking: Picked for opulent flavors, barrel fermented in 55-degree winery, full malolactic fermentation and battonaged for 4 months.

Maturation: Aged 10 months sur lie in 60% new French oak barriques and 40% in one-year old barriques from and François Frères, Ermitage and Quintessence.

Wine Analysis Alcohol 13.7% pH 3.18, and TA 7.8 g/L.

Production: 527 cases produced

Winemaker Notes:

Color: Straw gold with emerald and yellow hues.

Aroma: Complex fruit, oak and floral plantain aromas with hints of toast, vanilla and honey.

Palate: Lemon curd, tropical fruits, with creamy textures balanced with earthiness, white pear. Crisp acidity and soft tannins. Rich and expansive with a long finish.

Peak Drinking: Now-2040

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