



BARDEN

2016 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 Encantada Vineyard clone 76 & 15 (45%), La Rinconada Vineyard clone 76 & 96 (46%), Donnachadh Vineyard clone 76 & Wente clone (9%)

Vintage Conditions: It was a warm, dry summer with varying heat spikes and we had veraison quite early. With no ground water near the surface the stressed vines produced intensely flavored grapes with low brix, which resulted in lower alcohol wines with concentrated fruit flavors. We want fruit just approaching ripeness with higher acid and a lower brix.

Harvest Dates: August 31 - September 21, 2016

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 72% new French oak barriques from and François Frères, Ermitage and Quintessence.

Wine Analysis: Alcohol 13.1%, pH 3.43, and TA 6.7 g/L.

Accolades: 94 Points ~ Wine Enthusiast, 92 Points ~ Wine Spectator, 91 Points ~ Vinous

Production: 461 six packs.

Winemaker Notes:

Color: Gold with green and yellow hues.

Aroma: Complex aromas of toast, vanilla and honey with lemon curd, tropical fruits and layers of flavors, textures and cream.

Palate: A balanced approach between fruit and minerality with earthiness, white pear and crisp acidity balanced with soft tannins. Rich and expansive with a long finish.

Peak Drinking: Now-2021

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