



BARDEN



Sta. Rita Hills

2020 Chardonnay

BARDEN focuses exclusively on the terroir of the Sta. Rita Hills sourcing fruit from top vineyards in the appellation, showcasing the region’s classic typicity for Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Syrah. With its diverse, marine-based soils and refrigerated-sunlight climate, the Sta. Rita Hills provides a perfect place for Doug “Barden” Margerum to leverage his years of food and wine experience to make limited amounts of world-class, cuisine-friendly and age-worthy wines. The BARDEN name’s English meaning is “Lives near the boar’s den...” Thus the image of a wild boar, which is pervasive in our area’s vineyards.

Vineyard Region: Sta. Rita Hills – La Rinconada clones 76 & 96 (95%), La Encantada (1%), Sanford & Benedict (1%), Donnachadh (1%), Peake Ranch (1%), Spear (1%).

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 13.6% pH 3.36, and TA 7.4 g/L.

Production: 232 cases produced

Winemaker Notes

Color: Gold with hints of green.

Aroma: Bright yellow citrus mix with rich aromas of citrus blossom, honey, oak toast and vanilla.

Palate: White tropical fruits, lemon curd, with creamy textures balanced by minerals and Asian pear. Great vibrancy, rich, concentrated and a long finish.

Peak Drinking: Now and up to twenty plus years