

2020 DIERBERG CHARDONNAY DRUM CANYON VINEYARD



ALCOHOL
13.2%

AGED
15 months

OAK
10% New French; rest blend
of Neutral French barrel and
wood tank

HARVESTED
September 2020

BOTTLED
December 2021

CELLAR LIFE
10+ years

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VINTAGE NOTES

We agree with most that 2020 was a stellar vintage in Santa Barbara County in general and exceptional for the Sta. Rita Hills. Though we saw some exceptional heat spikes in Sta. Rita Hills around Labor Day, this was followed by a beautifully cool spell which rewarded patience. This ended up providing a longer growing season than usual and allowing for optimal ripeness while maintaining the hallmark acidity and balance that has come to define the Sta. Rita Hills appellation. There is an intensity to the Chardonnay from this region that supports the excitement around the world-class quality potential from this varietal in the Sta. Rita Hills. There is also a defining element of Drum Canyon Vineyard that truly shows this is a special site.

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WINEMAKER NOTES

Gently whole-cluster pressed as we have for many years, the settled juice was moved to large 400 liter barrels for fermentation where it stayed for just over a year prior to bottling. Drum Canyon Chardonnay always has a higher amount of malic acid, and one must be careful not to perform too much secondary fermentation because the wine can shift from being very fresh to being quite rich as the pH rises during this process. To strike the right balance of fresh structure to rich flavor we only performed secondary fermentation on about 15% of the barrels.

94 Points

Vinous

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TASTING NOTES

"The 2020 Chardonnay Drum Canyon Vineyard is impressive. Rich, dense and expansive, this is another terrific example of how compelling Chardonnay can be in the Sta. Rita Hills. Tangerine oil, lemon confit, mint, honeysuckle and apricot fill out the layers in a dramatic, structured Chardonnay loaded with personality."

Antonio Galloni, Vinous 06/2022

