

DIERBERG

Estate Vineyard

Story

In 1996, with forty years of winemaking experience, Jim and Mary Dierberg's dream of producing wines worthy of their 250 year plan became a reality. After a long search through France and Napa, while learning the craft and making wine in the mid-west, they discovered the potential of Santa Barbara's cool coastal valleys. The family planted two estates -first their namesake Dierberg Vineyard and later Drum Canyon Vineyard - both under their DIERBERG label. These estates, along with the family's iconic warm climate site Star Lane Vineyard, culminated in a trio of peerless properties in Santa Barbara County.

Location

DIERBERG explores Pinot Noir and Chardonnay within Santa Barbara County's Santa Rita Hills and Santa Maria Valley AVAs. The vineyards are located just 20 miles apart. The cool coastal influence of both vineyards represents ideal conditions for growing Californian expressions of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

Dierberg Vineyard

Thirteen miles from the Pacific Ocean in one of the cooler winegrowing corners of Santa Barbara County, Dierberg Vineyard is on the western edge of the Santa Maria Valley appellation and is comprised of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Perched on a mesa above the south bank

of the Santa Maria River, the property consists of sandy loam soils, heavily infiltrated by the marine sediments of yesteryear and kissed by the fog from the Pacific.

Founded in 1997, the family planted twelve "heritage clones" of Pinot Noir (tracing back to Burgundy). This diversity of material is rare in California, and allows the selection and discovery of the ideal clones to build the backbone of DIERBERG Pinot Noir.

Chardonnay selections were derived from marquis cuttings of historic Wente clones — and the closely related Clone 4 grape. These California-developed clones are high quality and low yielding, producing expressive but graceful Chardonnays by retaining fresh structure with delicious ripe fruit.

Drum Canyon Vineyard

Situated in the heart of the Santa Rita Hills along Highway 246 between Lompoc and Buellton in Santa Barbara County, Drum Canyon Vineyard possesses steep hillsides climbing more than 400 feet above the DIERBERG tasting room.

Planted in 2003, the challenging terrain with persistent, steady winds rolling through the canyon produce an environment that highlights expressive California Pinot Noir perfume while retaining density and structure. Contrasting the Dierberg Vineyard's earthy tones, the unique vine stress at Drum Canyon produces wines that reflect the intensity and signature acidity of Sta. Rita Hills AVA.



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DRUM CANYON VINEYARD

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The Wines

Dierberg Vineyards demonstrate that Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are able to translate site characteristics into unique, pleasing wines. We believe these varieties bare a vineyard's soul and in Pinot Noir is predicated on subtlety, perfume, and lithe texture; Chardonnay in its paradox of lush fruit with fresh structure.

Chardonnay

DIERBERG VINEYARD,
SANTA MARIA VALLEY

Grown in one of the cooler corners of California, this wine is made from marquis cuttings of historic California developed clones and planted atop a sandy loam mesa overlooking the south bank of the Santa Maria River. DIERBERG Chardonnay offers a rich mouth feel with precise acidity and minerality. Hallmark aroma associations have been pear and fennel, but its subtle complexity contains a myriad of characters that emerge with time. All Chardonnay is fermented in 400-liter demi-muid barrels, balancing the impact of oak with the natural expression of this classic California vineyard.



Pinot Noir

DIERBERG VINEYARD,
SANTA MARIA VALLEY

Regionally unique, representing a blend of several Pinot Noir clones, all cellar decisions are intended to embrace the earthy richness and darker fruit nature of Dierberg Vineyard Pinot Noir. The result is a silky, complex wine featuring acidity, earthiness and spice. This combination of classic Pinot Noir earthy quality with the richness of California fruit is a direct result of the area's cool lingering fog which imposes complexity by encouraging long fruit development with balanced textural profiles.



Chardonnay

DRUM CANYON VINEYARD,
STA RITA HILLS

This Drum Canyon Chardonnay is quintessential in its subtleties and transparency – highlighted by its balance while revealing a complete sense of place. Mineral, almost citrus driven in flavor, the texture is both energetic and persistent. Tasting this wine with our Santa Maria Valley Chardonnay offers insight into impact of site on Chardonnay.



Pinot Noir

DRUM CANYON VINEYARD,
STA RITA HILLS

The combination of steep slopes, free draining sandy-loam soils, and pounding wind conspire to induce tiny berries, providing wines of intense perfume and concentration. The trademark intense red and blue-fruit character of Santa Rita Hills is juxtaposed by a fresh, lithe quality on the palate.

