

# 2018 DIERBERG CHARDONNAY DRUM CANYON VINEYARD, STA. RITA HILLS



ALCOHOL  
13.2%

AGED  
15 months

OAK  
Neutral French  
400L

HARVESTED  
September 2018

BOTTLED  
December 2019

CELLAR LIFE  
7-10 years

## VINTAGE

2018 was a vintage that we hope for every year in our coastal vineyards. Below average winter rain set us up for another year of lower than normal vigor. Spring began cool and temperatures remained moderate throughout the summer. In many ways what makes this vintage remarkable was that its' weather was unremarkable. "Regular" vintages in Sta. Rita Hills are so well suited for excellent Pinot Noir and Chardonnay that the cool temperatures, moderate wind patterns, and lack of heat spells meant concentrated fruit that retained freshness and was filled with a mouth-watering texture. Unlike 2017 when heat spells complicated harvest decisions and in some cases fruit quality with stricter selection process, the only knock on 2018 was its low quantity. It is reminiscent of 2015's concentration but with 2016/2017 elegance.

## WINEMAKER NOTES

Unlike the Pinot Noir from Drum Canyon, the Chardonnay takes a little more thought and effort if there is no more work. Its' want is to get stinky and tempt your patience, and we've learned our role is to wait on it no matter how disgruntled it seems in youth. It is also finicky with acid. While it comes in with a healthy amount that promotes freshness and requires some secondary fermentation to balance, much of that acid is malic acid which makes the *amount* of secondary fermentation - due to potential big pH shifts when the malic gets converted - more challenging to discern. 2018 was no different. Some ML, a lot of patience, and by June you finally get to know how the vintage is proceeding and 2018 was terrific. Great depth with lithe texture, incredible length with its trademark salty quality. Quintessential.

## TASTING NOTES

The aromatics of Drum Canyon Chardonnay present themselves quietly, subtly. With more floral, and mineral qualities than overt fruit, this Chardonnays citrus and stone fruit (pear) qualities may not show themselves obviously. However, as the wine opens its compelling fruit, rich texture, and fresh finish encourage another glass. As we have come to expect with this wine, the finish is long and almost saline which we believe may be a trademark of Sta. Rita Hills Chardonnay.

