

Au Bon Climat



2018

Chardonnay, “33rd Vintage Celebration” Sanford & Benedict Vineyard

The first “great” vineyard in Santa Barbara County was planted by Richard Sanford and Michael Benedict in 1971. Jim Clendenen saw the “magic” of Sanford and Benedict Vineyard over three decades ago. He bought a few tons of grapes in the mid-1980s, and since then, Au Bon Climat has received fruit from Sanford & Benedict original plantings every year. Only Sanford Winery has that kind of “history” with this vineyard. Jim Clendenen wanted to further celebrate the greatness of this iconic vineyard beyond our Historic Vineyards Collection series, and thus created the “Vintage Celebration” Chardonnay program. Different from our usual Sanford & Benedict Chardonnay, this edition is richer and more opulent.

AT A GLANCE

APPELLATION:
Sta. Rita Hills

VINEYARD:
Sanford & Benedict Vineyard

VARIETAL:
100% Chardonnay

COOPERAGE:
2 years in 100% new François
Frères French oak 350L barrels

HARVEST: October 2, 2018

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

ACIDITY: 7.5 g/L

pH: 3.2

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$60

Tasting Notes

Rich, opulent, wonderful. This wine is slowly revealing the future potential. From this majestic vineyard, the 2018 offers subtle notes of flint, pineapple, pear and brioche, balanced with just the right amount of soft toasty oak. It is a wine of energy and restraint; in the next decade it will unwind and ‘open up’ to greatness. It’s more about structure than any one flavor, and will need time in the cellar to knit.

Food Pairings

This rich wine goes well with baked halibut in a lemon cream sauce, butternut ravioli, or crab legs.

From The Winemaker

This certified sustainable vineyard has a mantle of hard, siliceous chert-gravel covering deep, well-drained soils, combined with the cool climate (Region 1) provided by nearby the Pacific Ocean; it is a perfect medium for quality Pinot and Chardonnay producing fruit with a distinctive Sta. Rita Hills AVA character. The “Vintage Celebration” is the “reserve” Chardonnay edition from Sanford & Benedict Vineyard. To take it to the next level, we used new 350-liter barrels of the highest quality French oak custom coopered by François Frères to Jim Clendenen’s specifications. The top-notch wine had a slightly longer élevage and received two years barrel age before being lightly processed and bottled. The 2018 is an exceptional wine from a winery that has been known for making great Chardonnay from this historical vineyard for over 30 years.

Au Bon Climat & Clendenen Family Vineyards

SALES: +1 (805) 680-8077 | WINERY: +1 (805) 937-9801

AUBONCLIMAT.COM