

Au Bon Climat



2019

Chardonnay, “34th 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

HARVEST: October 2, 2018

VINEYARD:
Sanford & Benedict Vineyard

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

VARIETAL:
100% Chardonnay

ACIDITY: 639 g/L

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

pH: 3.26

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$60

Tasting Notes

Welcoming aromas of macadamia nut, cream, sweet butter and orange zest are joined by flavors of coconut, cherimoya, and other creamy, white fleshed fruit backed by hints of cinnamon, nutmeg and mineral notes. Though a rich, opulent wine, it is focused and tight in style that should build handsomely with bottle age.

Food Pairings

Match with creamy garlic parmesan chicken or seared scallops with a light butter-orange zest sauce.

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 2019 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

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