

Au Bon Climat



2022

Chardonnay, Runway Vineyard

The Santa Maria Valley is known for world class Chardonnays. Runway Vineyard, owned by the 47th Lieutenant Governor of California, Abel Maldonado, is located about a mile from our winery, essentially next door to Bien Nacido Vineyards in the heart of the valley. We have watched their development from the beginning in 2008. After all, we are very “nosy” neighbors. The vineyard improved every year as farming methods were fine tuned. Au Bon Climat was one of the few to get fruit from Runway early on. The quality continued to escalate. In 2013, it was decided the wines deserved a vineyard designated label, first for Pinot Noir, then for Chardonnay. We now get all their fruit each year. Due to our proximity, we can pick the grapes “just right”.

AT A GLANCE

APPELLATION:
Santa Maria Valley

VINEYARD:
Runway Vineyard

VARIETAL:
100% Chardonnay

COOPERAGE:
18 months, 100% new François Frères French oak barrels

HARVEST: August 26, 2022

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

ACIDITY: 6.5 g/L

pH: 3.53

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$40

Tasting Notes

The nose offers a soft richness with notes of coconut cream, walnut, and toasted barley, complemented by fresh hints of yuzu, honeysuckle, and orange blossom on the palate. The mid-palate reveals impressive length and weight, finishing with delicate oak spice and a touch of white chocolate meringue.

From The Winemaker

In 2022, the Chardonnay grapes were hand-picked in the cool morning of late August and dumped into the press just a few hours after picking. Gentle whole cluster pressing keeps the skin tannin extraction to a minimum. The settled juice was barrel fermented, completed malolactic fermentation, and aged sur-lie for 18 months in 100% new François Frères French oak barrels.

Food Pairings

Pair this wine with dishes like roasted lobster with herb butter, creamy butternut squash soup, or lemon-glazed chicken with almonds.

Au Bon Climat & Clendenen Family Vineyards

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