

Au Bon Climat



2023

Chardonnay, Los Alamos Vineyard

Au Bon Climat and Los Alamos Vineyard share a lot of history. It was 1982 when Au Bon Climat made its first wine in a small barn on their property. Though the winery has since moved, ABC continues to source fruit from them. The vineyard is located in the Los Alamos Valley wine region which has been creating distinctive wines for over 40 years, yet has never received an official appellation. That didn't stop us from placing the Los Alamos Vineyard in our Historic Vineyards Collection series, an homage to key outstanding vineyards on the Central Coast that have elevated Burgundian varietals. The Chardonnays have a signature character of tropical hints of coconut and pineapple with a marvelously viscous texture.

AT A GLANCE

APPELLATION:

Santa Barbara County

VINEYARD:

Los Alamos Vineyard

VARIETAL:

100% Chardonnay

COOPERAGE:

18 months, 33% new François Frères French oak

HARVEST: October 3, 2023

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

ACIDITY: 6.8 g/L

pH: 3.51

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$35

Tasting Notes

Los Alamos Chardonnay is a perfect balance of texture, structure, and elegance. The 2023 vintage features vibrant notes of kiwi, honeydew, and lemon-lime that shine on both the nose and palate, while a pronounced limestone minerality adds depth. A touch of oak imparts a rich, fresh-baked brioche character, creating a refined yet expressive wine.

Food Pairings

This crisp, yet elegant chardonnay can pair with scallops, lobster tails, or any pasta whether it be a creamy béchamel or gnocchi.

From The Winemaker

The 2023 growing season remained cool, allowing for a steady and gradual ripening process. Harvest arrived three to four weeks later than usual, giving the grapes ample time to retain their vibrant acidity. White wine yields were especially strong this year, maintaining both concentration and depth without compromise.

The Los Alamos Vineyard is roughly 500 planted acres, in the heart of Los Alamos Valley that is sandwiched between the warmer Santa Ynez Valley and cooler Santa Maria Valley appellations. The best grapes from this vineyard are found to the north on the gentle slopes of the hills. On these hillside blocks, the wind and sandy soils keep the yields in balance and incredible flavor profiles are developed in the grapes as they ripen. The fruit is hand harvested, whole cluster pressed, and put to barrel. It was aged 18 months on the lees in 33% new François Frères French oak barrels.