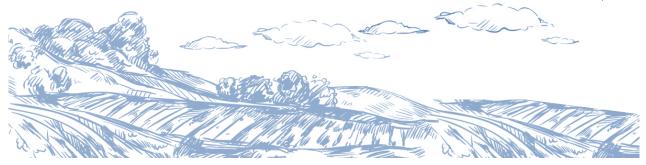


# 2022 CHARDONNAY FRANCESCA VINEYARD

STA. RITA HILLS AVA SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CA



### WINEMAKER NOTES

Aromatic and elegant, the 2022 Chardonnay Francesca Vineyard features up-front floral notes of jasmine, plumeria, and wisteria, as well as fresh citrus fruits. The palate is lean yet complex, with flavors of ruby red grapefruit, tangerine, and Meyer lemon rind. Baking spices such as nutmeg and cinnamon add warmth, while a hint of freshly cracked Sprite can or Canada Dry ginger ale lend a unique twist. The finish is broad with a vibrant acidity, making for an intriguing tasting experience.

#### WINEMAKING

Cases: 42

Appellation: Sta. Rita Hills Varietal composition: 100% Chardonnay

Clonal selection: 72

Soil at site: Loam/DE/Limestone

Barrels | Aging: 100% neutral French oak |

17 months

Alcohol: 13.4%

 Brix:
 22.7

 pH at harvest:
 3.15

 Finished pH:
 3.12

 Finished TA:
 7.6 g/L

 Harvest date:
 9/13/2022

 Bottling date:
 3/22/2024

 Release date:
 January 2025

## 2022 VINTAGE

2022 started off with a slightly later bud-break, and moderate weather through the spring and summer. Low yields across the board with all varietals and vineyards made the Labor-Day heat wave extra impactful and forced us to move quickly into harvest mode. Once the early ripening varietals were picked, the classic SB long growing season returned, and the final Rhone varietal grapes weren't harvested until late October. The 2022 wines retain their freshness and balance, with great flavor concentration and depth, and an extra kiss of sunshine.

## FRANCESCA VINEYARD

Francesca vineyard is truly a hidden gem, a humble 7 acre planting tucked away down Sweeny Canyon on the far west side of the Sta. Rita Hills AVA. The extreme cool weather and foggy conditions make this a challenging site to farm. Vines are planted at high density and low to the ground, with below average yields, allowing for very small quantities of these special wines.

#### **ACCOLADES**

95 points - Wine Enthusiast - Tightly wound aromas of crisp Asian pear, brisk white melon, sliced citrus and mint chiffonade entice the nose into this two-barrel, single-vineyard expression. The palate is bright, fresh and pithy, showing jicama, more Asian pear and underripe melon flavors. - Matt Kettman

93 points - Vinous - The 2022 Chardonnay Francesca Vineyard emerges from a sit on the western side of the appellation. Brisk and finely cut, the 2022 impresses with its energy. Lemon peel, slate, mint, and white pepper all race across the palate. There's lovely textural depth here. -Antonio Gallioni