

2022 DIERBERG VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

STA. RITA HILLS

ALCOHOL
13.2%

AGED
11 months

OAK
50% 1400 gal German Feudre;
50% 400L Neutral French

HARVESTED
September 2022

BOTTLED
August 2023

CELLAR LIFE
10+ years

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HARVEST NOTES

The 2022 growing season in Santa Barbara County posed significant challenges, though though fruit from Drum Canyon faired well. An early March bud break signaled a promising start, but low rainfall and a cool, windy spring reduced yields by up to 40%. A record-setting heatwave around Labor Day stressed vines and unexpectedly lowered sugar levels, which actually lent itself to a good pick call right afterward. Says Tyler Thomas, "2022 reminds us that Sta. Rita Hills has true vintage variation and it's important to be patient and know what your vines need for optimal fruit production. We feel great about the quality of both the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from Drum Canyon."

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WINEMAKER NOTES

Weather during the ripening period was much different than 2021, with a heat spike during Labor Day followed by a pending storm which made it easy for us to make the call to pick around the 8th of September. Still, we were able to pick with great acidity and balanced sugars and the reduced crop (even lower than usual) meant what we came out on the sorting table was terrific. Our technique with this wine was consistent with the previous vintage and consistent with maximizing Drum Canyon: whole-cluster pressing, and an anaerobic ML which helps the wine achieve texture without butter.

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TASTING NOTES

Floral and pleasantly lifted, the 2022 has plenty to offer in an upfront style. White flowers, "garrigue" and crushed rocks open nicely as the texture on the wine frames a beautiful acidity and the hallmark saline quality of Drum Canyon.

"These Dierberg releases are made by Tyler Thomas and have pure, classy, impeccably made profiles." Jeb Dunnuck

"The quality and consistency of the Chardonnay coming from Santa Barbara County today is truly incredible, and you don't have to spend a lot of money either. Most estate's entry-level cuvées are exceptional and give many of their more expensive single vineyard releases a run for their money." Jeb Dunnuck