

What critics are saying about SAMsARA wines:

"Today, Matt Brady is crafting wines of tremendous distinction." Antonio Galloni –
Vinous – October 2021

"I continue to love these wines from Matt Brady, which always have a wild, almost old-school, complex vibe that makes them incredibly compelling." Jeb Dunnuck – August 2022

What critics are saying about Santa Barbara area wines:

"Santa Barbara is home to extraordinary vineyards and talented winemakers. [...] I was blown away by what I tasted. Blown away. The purity of the fruit, the expression of place, the clear voice of a vintage — all the hallmarks of the world's greatest wines and regions — they are all there."

"Curiously, Santa Barbara remains very much undiscovered by the broader population. That happens to be great news for savvy consumers. The best wines offer tremendous quality and pedigree. They also happen to be significantly undervalued relative to global peers, both at retail and on restaurant wine lists." Antonio Galloni – Vinous – October 2021

"Looking at 2020, Santa Barbara County is the shining star in California in this vintage, and this is where California wine lovers should focus their attention and wine budget."

"The quality and consistency of Chardonnay coming from Santa Barbara County today is truly incredible, and you don't have to spend a lot of money either."

Jeb Dunnuck – August 2022



Press for Current Vintage Wines

2020 Chardonnay Sta. Rita Hills

Vineyards: 17% Donnachadh, 28% Spear, 21% Gnesa, 28% Zotovich, and 6% Bentrock Vineyard

91 points, Vinous

"The 2020 Chardonnay from Sta. Rita Hills is a pretty appellation-level wine. Apricot, candied lemon peel, brioche and a hint of spice all come together."

Antonio Galloni

2019 Chardonnay Sta. Rita Hills

Vineyards: 20% Kessler Haak, 10% John Sebastiano, 50% Donnachadh, 20% Zotovich 92 points, Wine Advocate

"The 2019 Chardonnay Sta. Rita Hills has aromas of toast, white peaches, lemon peel and stone, while the palate is rounded and fragrant with white flower nuances lingering on the finish."

Erin Brooks

93 points, Wine Enthusiast

"Clean but very expressive aromas of chalk, Key lime spray, Meyer lemon peel, lychee and a hint of lemongrass show on the nose of this appellation blend. The palate is fresh and mineral-laden, offering flavors of white rocks, baked lemons and butter flakes."

Matt Kettmann

2019 Chardonnay Zotovich Vineyard -Sta. Rita Hills

93 points, Vinous

"The 2019 Chardonnay Zotovich Vineyard is bright, airy and ethereal, all typical of this Sta. Rita Hills site. Crushed rocks, mint and white pepper all race out of the glass. The 2019 wonderfully focuses, with plenty of brightness and saline notes in the background."

Antonio Galloni

93 points, Wine Enthusiast

"This is a very Chablis-like bottling, starting with tight and edgy but ultimately smoothed out aromas of lime zest, chalk and lemongrass. The palate is tense, like licking river stones and sea shells, offering flavors of Meyer lemon peel and citrus juice."

Matt Kettmann

2019 Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills

Vineyards: 30% Rio Vista, 22% Turner, 13% Rancho la Vina, 11% Las Hermanas, 6% Radian, 6% Kessler-Haak, 6% La Encantada, 6% John Sebastiano Vineyard

94 points, Wine Enthusiast Editor's Choice

"As the more affordable appellation blend, this is a brilliant bottling, loaded with winemaker Matt Brady's fresh energy and creative spirit. Fruity aromas of strawberry, cherry and red apple are lifted by pinches of plucked herb on the nose. The palate flies that red-fruit flag boldly but also picks up bay leaf and terpene-loaded herb flavors."

Matt Kettmann

91 points, Wine Advocate

"Pale ruby, the 2019 Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills has delicate tea leaves and red berries on the nose with touches of dried earth and savory spice. The palate is light-bodied, soft and juicy, with approachable, earth-laced fruits and a lifted, spicy finish."

Erin Brooks



Vineyards: 34% Rio Vista, 23% John Sebastiano Vineyard, 15% Rancho La Vina, 15% Las Hermanas, 13% Kessler-Haak

93 points, Wine Enthusiast

"This appellation blend is juicy while elegant, starting with aromas of black raspberry, intense hibiscus and a hint of carnation. The vibrant palate bounces from lively blasts of crushed currants, red plum and pomegranate to spicy tones of white pepper."

Matt Kettmann

92 points, Vinous

"The 2018 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills) is a fabulous introduction to the range. It reveals hints of red fruit flowers, rose petal, mint and blood orange. Medium in body, silky and aromatic, the 2018 shows just how magnificent this vintage is for Pinot. This understated, nuanced Pinot has so much to offer."

Antonio Galloni

2018 Pinot Noir Las Hermanas Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills

94 points, Jeb Dunnuck

the 2018 Pinot Noir Las Hermanas Vineyard comes from a site in the Sta. Rita Hills and was 50% destemmed. Its translucent ruby color is followed by a pretty, stemmy, Dujac-like nose of ripe cherries and spring flowers. Nicely textured on the palate, medium-bodied, and beautifully balanced, this elegant, seamless Pinot Noir will benefit from a year in bottle and cruise for 7-8 years in cold cellars. It's beautifully done.

Jeb Dunnuck

94points, Wine Advocate

"Medium ruby, the 2018 Pinot Noir Las Hermanas Vineyard has bright cranberry and pomegranate fruits with tones of tobacco leaves, aniseed, graphite and lemon peel. The medium-bodied palate is grainy and fresh with intense, spicy fruits and a long finish loaded with fragrant floral perfume."

Erin Brooks

2017 Pinot Noir Las Hermanas Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills

94 points, Wine Enthusiast

"Loads of peppercorns, wild thyme, tobacco and pine-needle aromas ride across crisp raspberry fruit on the nose of this bottling by winemaker Matt Brady. Those herbal flavors dominate the palate as well, where wild chaparral tones meet with crunchy cranberry fruit."

Matt Kettmann

2015 Pinot Noir Las Hermanas Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills

95 points, Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2015 Pinot Noir Las Hermanas Vineyard offers an earthier, more gamey style, with ample forest floor, lavender, tart cherry, and sous bois aromas and flavors. The Gevrey-Chambertin in the lineup, with a decidedly Burgundian flare, this beauty is layered and elegant on the palate, with plenty of saltiness and minerality. Drink it over the coming decade."

Jeb Dunnuck

93 points, Wine Advocate

"The pale to medium ruby colored 2015 Pinot Noir Las Hermanas is open on the nose, giving up dried rose petal and orange oil, Earl Grey tea, pink peppercorn, pipe tobacco and dusty earth with crushed strawberries, rhubarb and warm black and red cherries and berries. Light to medium-bodied and very silky, it gives up intense spicy fruits with pleasantly dusty tannins and juicy acidity, finishing long, energetic and spicy."

Erin Brooks



2018 Pinot Noir Rancho La Vina Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills

94 points, Wine Enthusiast

"Black raspberry and pomegranate aromas meet with anise, sage and rose petals on the engaging nose of this single vineyard expression. Fruity flavors of strawberry and red plum are punchy on the palate, yet given depth by dense, chalky tannins. Both tense and fun."

Matt Kettmann

92 points, Wine Advocate

Pale ruby-purple, the 2018 Pinot Noir Rancho la Vina Vineyard features dried wildflowers, tea leaves and lemon peel on the nose with tones of iron and earth. The palate is medium-bodied with citrus-laced fruits, with juicy acidity elevating the spicy finish.

Erin Brooks

2017 Pinot Noir Rancho La Vina Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills

94 points, Jeb Dunnuck

The 2017 Pinot Noir Rancho La Vina Vineyard saw 60% whole clusters and spent 18 months in 30% new French oak. More black raspberry, redcurrant, sappy herb, and gamey, foresty notes emerge from this medium-bodied beauty, which has stunning balance, integrated tannins, and a great finish. It too will evolve gracefully for 10-12 years.

Jeb Dunnuck

93 points, Wine Advocate

Pale to medium ruby-purple, the 2017 Pinot Noir Rancho la Vina Vineyard opens with delicate scents of cranberry, blueberries and blood orange with perfumed layers of dried lavender and forest floor. Medium-bodied, it's appealing and open-knit, with concentrated, juicy berry fruits in a soft frame, finishing long. This packs a powerful flavor punch in a very pretty frame.

Erin Brooks

2015 Pinot Noir Rancho La Vina Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills

94 points, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Pinot Noir Rancho la Vina Vineyard has a pale to medium ruby color with aromas of blueberries, roses, crushed stone, tobacco, saline and tangerine peel with rhubarb, strawberry, warm red and black cherries and blackberries with tinges of woodsmoke and earth. The light to medium-bodied palate is silky, featuring broody spices and fruits and swelling with pleasantly chewy tannins and juicy freshness before finishing with tons of vibrant energy."

Erin Brooks

2018 Syrah Santa Barbara County

94 points, Wine Enthusiast

"This appellation blend is a smart way to indulge in winemaker Matt Brady's cool-climate ways. Focused aromas of white and black peppercorns meet with tea leaves, cranberry and a hint of tar on the nose. The palate is zesty and light on its feet, with forest berry, elderflower and botanical floral flavors adding to the intrigue."

Matt Kettmann

94 points, Wine Advocate

"Medium ruby-purple, the 2018 Syrah Santa Barbara County is bright and alluring, with pure aromas of red cherries, aniseed, powdered sugar, milk chocolate and olive. The medium-bodied palate is soft, plush and juicy, with bright spicy accents uplifting the finish. It's a deeply fruited but very drinkable Syrah that's approachable even at this youthful stage."

Erin Brooks



2017 Syrah Santa Barbara County (88% Syrah/12% Grenache)

Vineyards: Zotovich, John Sebastiano, Donnachadh, Zaca Mesa, Colson Canyon, Larner

92 points, Wine Advocate

"The 2017 Syrah Santa Barbara County has a medium ruby-purple color and a nose of crushed black and blue berry fruits with touches of mint chocolate, olive and charcuterie. It's medium-bodied with Goldilocks ripeness and savory accents, finely framed and finishing long with bright pops of freshness. It's a lovely, understated style."

Erin Brooks

92 points, Wine Enthusiast

"Very tarry aromas of asphalt, black pepper dust and charred wood give a savory wrapping to the underlying blackberry tone of this county blend. There's a tangy berry flavor to the palate, where peppery spices meet with wild thyme and green-herb flavors."

Matt Kettmann

2019 Syrah Zotovich Vineyard - Sta. Rita Hills

94 points, Wine Enthusiast

"Sanguine aromas of rust and crushed rocks meet with uncracked peppercorns, purple and red flowers on the dynamic nose of this bottling. Currant and strawberry flavors pop on the palate, where zippy acidity lifts white-pepper, thyme and purple-flower elements into a unique and delicious combination.

Matt Kettmann

94 points, Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2019 Syrah Zotovich Vineyard was 50% destemmed and brought up in neutral barrels. It is almost opaque ruby/purple in color is followed by a spicy, complex, medium-bodied Syrah with lots of stemmy, nutty, spicey nuances, ultra-fine tannins, some juicy acidity, and a great finish. It's another impeccably made wine from this label that has tons of character and is well worth seeking out."

Jeb Dunnuck

2018 Syrah Zotovich Vineyard - Sta. Rita Hills

94 points, Wine Enthusiast

"Intense aromas of rosemary, dark clove, dried ginger, pine oil and incense make for a very heady cool-climate expression on the nose of this bottling. It's bright and herby on the palate, where tea-leaf and Sichuan peppercorn flavors buzz through elderberry fruit."

Matt Kettmann

94 points, Wine Advocate

Made entirely with whole clusters and matured in neutral oak, the 2018 Syrah Zotovich Vineyard has a medium rubypurple color and layered aromas of red and black cherries, cracked pepper, bacon fat, licorice, bitter chocolate and mint leaves. The medium-bodied palate is chalky and fresh, with loads of spicy accents defining the long finish.

Erin Brooks

2017 Syrah Zotovich Vineyard - Sta. Rita Hills

94 points, Jeb Dunnuck

"There are four Syrahs, all seeing plenty of stems and neutral oak. Starting with the 2017 Syrah Zotovich Vineyard, its deep purple/plum color is followed by a great nose of smoked black fruits, chocolate, toasted nuts, sappy violets, and gamey meats. This peppery, medium to full-bodied, silky, and complex Syrah will keep for 10-12 years."

leb Dunnuck

94 points, Wine Enthusiast

"Green peppercorns, damp seaweed, blistered plum skins and dried purple flowers make for a savory expression of cool climate Syrah in this bottling. Sansho pepper dust, pine needles and dank mushroom flavors consume the palate, with a touch of tight berries."

Matt Kettmann