SAMSARA WINE CO

2020 CHARDONNAY BENTROCK VINEYARD

STA. RITA HILLS AVA

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CA



WINEMAKER NOTES

With bright tropical fruits, lemon zest, seaspray on the nose, the 2020 Chardonnay - Bentrock Vineyard is extremely expressive and aromatic. Broad on the palate with weight and texture, this Chardonnay still possesses a backbone of acidity on the midpalate and finishes with a delightful creaminess.

WINEMAKING

Cases: 107

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

Clonal selection: 95

Soil at site: DE/Chert/Loam

Barrels | Aging: 100% neutral French oak |

16 months

Alcohol: 13.3%

 Brix:
 22.0

 pH at harvest:
 3.23

 Finished pH:
 3.3

 Finished TA:
 6.9g/L

Harvest date: 9/05/2020

Bottling date: March 2022

Release date: Fall 2022

2020 VINTAGE

2020 was a whirlwind harvest in a less-than-normal year. Fruit came in relatively early due to a warm summer, but fruit quality was incredibly high. With decent rainfall, vines were healthy and a warm spring helped usher in a balanced crop. Chardonnay and Pinot began ripening in late August. A bit of heat at the beginning of harvest kicked things off with a bang, but moderate temperatures throughout the fall kept Rhônes on the vine a little longer. The 2020 wines show good flavor concentration and depth, while still retaining their balance and freshness.

BENTROCK VINEYARD

Bentrock Vineyard is the westernmost planting along Santa Rosa Road on the old Salsipuedes Ranch (The ranch was broken into two vineyards, Radian and Bentrock). Even on warm days in the valley, it is still breezy and cold at Bentrock. The soils are complex. The soils are sandy but there is some variability with some richer parts as well lots of interesting limestone and sandstone, even a little bit of shale. Bentrock is one of those cool climate sites where the style works really well for SAMsARA because we're able to make an acid-driven style where fruit is picked on the early side; fresh and bright, but the resulting wine has tons of depth, texture and complexity.

ACCOLADES

94 points - Vinous The 2020 Chardonnay Bentrock offers good depth and density in a soft, open-knit style that presents quite a bit of immediacy and overall appeal. Orchard fruit, brioche, spice and dried flowers caress the palate. Time in the glass brings out the wine's natural breadth and resonance, while bright saline undertones extend the finish. - Antonio Galloni

92 points - Jeb Dunnuck There are two whites from Samsara. Starting with the 2020 Chardonnay Bentrock Vineyard, it sports a vivid gold hue to go with a beautiful Sta. Rita Hills profile of honeyed apple, citrus, toasted bread, and subtle marine and iron-like nuances. It's medium-bodied, has good acidity, and a great finish. It's going to keep for a decade.