



2023 CHARDONNAY
FRANCESCA VINEYARD

STA. RITA HILLS AVA
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CA



WINEMAKER NOTES

Elegant and tea-like, this wine saturates the palate with notes of white tea, orange blossom, Asian pear, and loquat. A touch of dried honey and white miso lend umami character. Mid-palate driven and textural, with a quiet persistence and layered complexity.

WINEMAKING

Cases:	90
Appellation:	Sta. Rita Hills
Varietal composition:	100% Chardonnay
Clonal selection:	72
Soil at site:	Loam/Diatomaceous Earth/Limestone
Barrels Aging:	17 months 100% neutral French oak
Alcohol:	13%
Brix:	21.7
pH at harvest:	3.24
Finished pH:	3.28
Finished TA:	7.0 g/L
Harvest date:	9/29/2023
Bottling date:	3/28/2025
Release date:	Winter 2026

2023 VINTAGE

The 2023 wines show an intensity and vibrance that can only come from an extreme long and cool winegrowing season. 2023 had the latest harvest dates in the modern Sta. Rita Hills winemaking era. The winter was cold and wet with record rainfall. An especially grey/overcast spring led to an extended 'flowering' period. Cool weather continued through the summer. Finally in mid-September we got a late 'Labor Day' heatwave and that final kiss of sunshine, combined with the extra-long hangtime, makes the vintage sing on all levels: bright acidity from the cool season, ripe rich flavors from the long hangtime, and a high level of balance.

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

93 points - Wine Advocate *The Chardonnay Francesca Vineyard is wonderfully airy and understated in this vintage, opening with an increasingly complex bouquet of dried jasmine, pastry cream, tropical citrus and crushed stones. The palate strikes a midpoint between linear, focused verve and weightless textural density before transitioning into a long, polished finish propelled by mouthwatering acidity and an unwavering rudder of minerality.* - **Matthew Luczy**

90 points - Vinous *The 2023 Chardonnay Francesca Vineyard has slightly more depth of yellow fruit and textural heft than the blended Chardonnays in the range, but it's another nervous wine that toes the line of austerity. Cool-toned racy acids are the hallmark here, but the 2023 retains good balance.* - **Billy Norris**