



RIVERBENCH



## 2019 ESTATE CHARDONNAY

*Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley*

COMPOSITION	100% Chardonnay, Clone 4
HARVEST	October 7, 8; 2019
COOPERAGE	26% New French Oak
COOPERS	Seguin Moreau
ACIDITY	0.61 g/100ml
PH	3.49
ALCOHOL	14.1%
BOTTLED	July 20, 2020
PRODUCTION	447 cases
PRICE	\$28

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Antonio Galloni  
*October 2021*

### WINEMAKERS NOTES

Are you constantly let down by Chardonnay? Does the thought of ordering it off a menu scare you, for fear you'll end up with a glass of sad, watery something that tastes like it's been left out too long? There's nothing more depressing than a flabby Chardonnay, and it's our humble opinion that too many winemakers cover up the gorgeous nuances of this lovely fruit. Before you write off the varietal for good, show this wine some love. Our Estate Chardonnay, which has a true balance between fruit flavors and an appealing buttery note, really is that good. Enjoy it with gourmet mac and cheese (a hint of bacon would complement the oak nicely!) or grilled trout.

### 2019 HARVEST

The old mantra of "slow and steady" reverberated across the 2019 vintage which started with abundant winter precipitation followed by a classically cool summer. The rains we received over winter were 5" above normal, priming our vines for an auspicious budburst in mid-March. Warm spring temperatures accelerated rapid flowering and therefore consistent fruit set, the like of which we had not seen in years. Unusual May showers gave our vineyard crew a formidable challenge of thwarting powdery mildew and botrytis on the vines. We are happy to say they rose to the occasion and kept our fruit some of the cleanest in years despite the late rain and foggy summer to follow. The first grapes for our sparkling wine, the Pinot Meunier, came into the winery on the first of September, a little later than usual. The rest of our still wine grapes followed suit and by the start of October, 95% of the ranch was harvested. The Pinot Noir clones exhibited dark color and rich extraction from the lower-than-expected yields. The real star of 2019 however, was our 15 acres of old vine Chardonnay. The clusters verged on perfection with clean, balanced, concentrated fruit. The cool growing season showcased primary notes of granny smith apple and riverbank minerality that will continue to develop in bottle "slow and steady" long into the future.

