



RIVERBENCH



## 2020 BEDROCK CHARDONNAY

*Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley*

COMPOSITION	100% Chardonnay, Clone 4
HARVEST	September 22, 2020
COOPERAGE	100% Stainless Steel
ACIDITY	0.53 g/100ml
PH	3.62
ALCOHOL	12.2%
BOTTLED	April 15, 2021
PRODUCTION	92 cases
PRICE	\$26

### WINEMAKERS NOTES

Chardonnay is truly one of the world's most versatile varieties, and we love showing it in all its various forms. Our version of the "no oak" trend is a standout representation of the purity of the Chardonnay grape. Crisp and bright, this wine boasts a nose of pineapple and lemon zest thanks to its fermentation in 100% stainless steel tanks. A little time sur lies and partial malolactic fermentation add a richness that balances out that tart fruit, and the palate of pear, starfruit and a hint of cream make this a perfect treat all on its own or paired with a range of foods. This vintage in particular has a gorgeous aroma of freshly cut grass thanks to cooler fermentations, and maybe a little wet river rock mixed in. Enjoy poolside, with brunch, or near the grill with friends.

### 2020 HARVEST

Amidst high tensions in the weather and the world at large, the 2020 vintage ushered in high quality and clean fruit reminiscent of Santa Maria's celebrated cool climate. The year began with a dry winter that dribbled out less than half the usual rainfall and incited an early budburst. Hearty shoots managed to survive the windy spring and the nighttime frost alarms. Summer started out quiet and cool until August when high temperatures and humidity whipped up spectacular lightning shows and a few hefty downpours, testing our fungal-resistant pruning practices. When the turbulent storms subsided, they were replaced by 10 days of smoky haze as major fires broke out to the north and the south. By the grace of our valley topography, our vines were buffered by the worst of the smoke and flames with no taint detected on our early grape pulls. Harvest commenced with clean picks of sparkling Pinot Meunier on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Timing was steady and calculated. Safe from the challenges of weather, smoke, and global pandemics, the grapes in the winery unfolded elegantly. Our Pinot Noirs show incredible color with particularly luscious tannins from this year's small berries while the Chardonnays will age well into the future with bright acids and popping citrus aromas. While challenging, 2020's adversities built wines with character, concentration, and complexity that gave us cause to celebrate.

