



RIVERBENCH



2020 CHAPEL VIEW CHARDONNAY

Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Chardonnay, Clone 4
HARVEST	September 15, 17; 2018
COOPERAGE	33% New French Oak
COOPERS	Seguin Moreau
ACIDITY	0.62 g/100ml
PH	3.45
ALCOHOL	13.2%
BOTTLED	July 2021
PRODUCTION	520 cases
PRICE	\$38

WINEMAKERS NOTES

The old Sisquoc Chapel, a true landmark in Santa Maria which inspires the name of this wine, sits on a hill overlooking our Chapel View block. This part of the vineyard is one of the most picturesque, so the vines are extra happy. Tropical fruit flavors of pineapple and lime make this wine lively, and a touch of buttery toast adds some richness. Pair it with something simple, like burrata artichoke salad or roast chicken. Match it with something fancy, crab claws and drawn butter. Or pour a big glass to go with some popcorn and a movie. It's just that kinda wine.

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 20th. 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.

