



# RIVERBENCH



## 2024 ESTATE CHARDONNAY

*Estate Grown & Bottled, Santa Maria Valley*

<b>COMPOSITION</b>	<i>100% Chardonnay, Clone 4</i>
<b>HARVEST</b>	<i>September 30, 2024</i>
<b>COOPERAGE</b>	<i>20% New French Oak</i>
<b>COOPERS</b>	<i>Seguin Moreau</i>
<b>ACIDITY</b>	<i>T.A. 0.57 g/100mL</i>
<b>PH</b>	<i>3.4</i>
<b>ABV</b>	<i>12.8%</i>
<b>BOTTLED</b>	<i>August 26, 2025</i>
<b>PRODUCTION</b>	<i>200 cases</i>
<b>PRICE</b>	<i>\$32</i>

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Tired of lifeless, watery Chardonnay that leaves you disappointed? We get it. Too often, the beautiful complexity of this varietal gets lost—but not here. Before you write off the varietal for good, show this wine some love. Our Estate Chardonnay strikes the perfect balance between bright fruit flavors and an elegant buttery note, layered with subtle oak. It's rich yet refreshing, and a perfect match for gourmet mac and cheese (especially with a touch of bacon) or grilled trout. Give Chardonnay another shot—you won't regret it.

### 2024 HARVEST

The 2024 vintage was a year of historically low yields, with exceptional quality driven by a cool spring, extended ripening, and low disease pressure in the summer. Bud break began during the last week of February, but a cool spring kept vine growth on a slow pace. Multiple early May frost events occurred, but no damage was noted to the vines or developing crop. June was another mild month putting vine development further behind, but had no affect on bloom or set. During the third week of July the first signs of veraison were observed, a full 2 weeks behind historical average. The first grapes harvested for Riverbench were Wente Clone Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier on August 26th, both of which were for sparkling wine. Yields were 20-40% lighter than historical average. The viticultural explanation was that the heavy crop cluster differentiation in the buds resulted in lower yields. Because of this, harvest was compact, lasting a little over 30 days which is 30% shorter than historical average. The last grapes for Riverbench were harvested on October 3rd.

