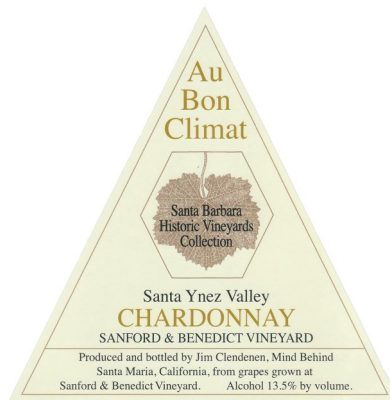




Jim Clendenen, the Mind Behind Au Bon Climat, is one of the founding winemakers in Santa Barbara County. He has been making benchmark wines under his own label since 1982. Although Jim owns his own vineyard, Le Bon Climat, at the Southern end of the Santa Maria Valley, he also sources grapes from many of the most historically significant vineyards throughout the Santa Barbara County and beyond. Jim specializes in crafting well-balanced artisan quality Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.



Au Bon Climat “Sanford & Benedict” Chardonnay

Santa Barbara Historic Vineyard Collection

Santa Rita Hills, California

Jim Clendenen is certainly considered one of the pioneering winemakers in Santa Barbara County. In homage to the great vineyard sites of the region Jim began the “Santa Barbara Historic Vineyard Collection” that feature these vineyards in limited production, single-vineyard bottlings. Sanford & Benedict is the one vineyard in this collection that is in general distribution.

- This wine is 100% Chardonnay sourced from the Sanford & Benedict Vineyard, which is one of the pioneering vineyards in what is now known as the Santa Rita Hills AVA (a sub-appellation of the Santa Ynez Valley).
- This vineyard has a high degree of calcified marine deposits in the soil, the vineyard orientation is a very cool northern-facing site at an elevation of about 600 feet, and the ocean breezes all combine for compelling terroir.
- The fruit for this Chardonnay (*UCD 4 clone*) comes from the oldest section of Sanford & Benedict Vineyard, planted in the early 70’s.
- The fruit is 100% whole-cluster pressed then chilled and settled overnight.
- The juice is barrel fermented in French oak barrels, predominately from Francois Freres (about 50% new). It then undergoes a secondary complete malo-lactic fermentation, then aged surlee for a total time in barrel of 20 months.
- The wine is bottled unfiltered.