



Chardonnay Santa Barbara County

The 2021 Santa Barbara County Chardonnay is a beautiful example of the Au Bon Climat style. The flinty, stony aromas stand out, while in the background is an intriguing spice note of clove and nutmeg from surlies barrel aging in somewhat neutral, François Frères barrels for 10 months. Flavors and aromas of citrus and stone fruit, are finished with a beautiful lemon/lime zest note.

	AT A GLANCE	
	APPELLATION: Santa Barbara County	HARVEST: September & October 2021
	VINEYARD: Bien Nacido, Los Alamos, Le Bon Climat	ALCOHOL: 13.5%
		ACIDITY: 7.5
	VARIETAL:	pH: 3.2
	Chardonnay	RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0
	COOPERAGE: 10 months, Neutral François Frères French Oak	
		SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$24
	•••••	

Tasting Notes

The 2021 Santa Barbara County Chardonnay is a beautiful example of the Au Bon Climat style. The flinty, stony aromas stand out, while in the background is an intriguing spice note of clove and nutmeg from surlies barrel aging in somewhat neutral, François Frères barrels for 10 months. Flavors and aromas of citrus and stone fruit, are finished with a beautiful lemon/lime zest note. This wine is intense, but light on its feet and is built to compliment food, not over power food. It's immediately enjoyable and it will improve for at least 10 years.

Food Pairings

Chicken or seafood with pasta in a light creamy sauce.

From The Winemaker

We have made this wine since 1982 and it is still one of the best values available. Santa Barbara County has the climate and terroir to allow Au Bon Climat to consistently make balanced and lively wines. This wine keeps on evolving from delicious and fresh at release, to a richer more complex wine with age. At the winery, we routinely drink the Santa Barbara County Chardonnays from the late 1990s to early 2000s with special visitors to their delight. We have used the same vineyards for a number of years. The blend is from three well-farmed vineyards: Bien Nacido, Los Alamos, Le Bon Climat. The average age of these Chardonnay plantings is more than 25 years, which is old compared to most vineyards in our area.

All the Chardonnay grapes are carefully handpicked and sorted in the vineyard. After harvesting, the grapes are whole cluster pressed, and juice is quickly settled and chilled to begin barrel fermentation. The wine is dry and completed malo-lactic fermentation. We blended and processed the wine during the following summer.