

2009 chardonnay santa maria valley

tasting notes

Leading with aromatics of green apple, honeydew, custard, hay and clementine, this multifaceted chardonnay defies traditional classification. On the palate, notes of butterscotch, kaffir lime, herbs du provence and cinnamon toast are carried on well-structured acidity.

wine information

Vineyards Bien Nacido
Solomon Hills

Clones 4, 76, 95, 96

Aging 51% Oak Aged in 30%
New, 70% Neutral for
4 Months Sur Lie.
49% Stainless Steel
Aged for 4 Months Sur
Lie. Combined Total
Aging Time of 12
Months.

Malolatic 50%

Alcohol by Vol. 14.3%

pH 3.45

TA 6.78 g/L

Fining None

Residual Sugar 0.012 g/100 ml

Brix at Harvest 24.3

Cases Produced 820

Release Date February 2011

winemaker notes

The grapes were whole cluster pressed direct to tank for overnight settling. Bien Nacido Vineyard was racked to barrel for fermentation while Solomon Hills Vineyard was stainless steel fermented. After 4 months, both lots were blended to tank and aged an additional 8 months.



alta maria vineyards

James Ontiveros and Paul Wilkins have been everywhere - done everything - but all roads lead to here. As a couple of kids in college, they bonded over an unlikely interest in wine. Interest grew into obsession and obsession became career: one as a viticulturist and one as a winemaker. They worked long hours and made sacrifices to become veterans in their fields, even at a young age. They moved away, lost touch, and many years passed.

Over time, each was drawn to a region of quiet treasure: the Santa Maria Valley. A vineyard on a hill was the setting for the second intersection of these two friends' lives; and this time, they were prepared to make the wine that was waiting for them all along: Alta Maria Vineyards. Their shared affinity for all things homespun and honest reflects the unflappable authenticity of the Santa Maria Valley, it's refusal to acknowledge the whims of the masses, and the unheralded excellence of its climate, geography and soils.



THE ARTWORK for Alta Maria Vineyards features hand-hewn iron nails used by homesteaders in Santa Maria before the Industrial Revolution introduced mass-produced, machine-cut nails. Despite its lowly function, each nail is unique from the next according to the conditions in which it was made and the expertise of the craftsman.

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