

2022 EL JABALI CHARDONNAY

HISTORY

Alma Rosa is an estate deeply rooted in the winemaking history of the Santa Rosa Hills in the southern sector of the Sta. Rita Hills AVA. Here, growing conditions combine sunshine with the powerful cooling influence of onshore winds and fog from the Pacific Ocean.

The unique geography, chilly climate, and clay-loam soils attracted Alma Rosa Founder Richard Sanford to this area in the early 70s where he pioneered Pinot Noir in Santa Barbara County. Today, under the leadership of Proprietors Bob and Barb Zorich and Winemaker Samra Morris, Alma Rosa remains dedicated to crafting wines that embody the best of the Sta. Rita Hills while preserving the authenticity and sustainability of the estate's terroir.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2022 vintage began with cold mornings and warm afternoons, followed by ideal summer temperatures, with morning fog and persistent afternoon breezes from the Pacific. This steady weather resulted in a long, moderate growing season, allowing the grapes to develop gradually and evenly, with concentrated berries and clusters. A September heatwave provoked a fast and short harvest with long hours in the winery processing a deluge of beautiful fruit with bright acidity and minerality, beautiful aromas and complexity. A spectacular Sta. Rita Hills vintage.

WINEMAKING

- 100% whole cluster
- Settled for 24 hours in stainless steel tanks and then racked into 48% new French oak barrels
- Bâtonnage was weekly
- Malolactic fermentation occurred naturally and finished in March
- Wine was aged in 48% new French oak, then transferred to stainless steel tanks for 4 months, total aging 15 months
- Bottled unfinned and unfiltered

TASTING NOTES

Alma Rosa's estate vineyard, El Jabali, was originally planted in 1983 by winery founder Richard Sanford. The 2022 Alma Rosa El Jabali Chardonnay is pale yellow in the glass with a glistening green rim. On the nose, the wine presents sea salt, lime, juicy Honeycrisp apple, brioche and wet stones. The palate shows apple, lemon zest and a vibrant pop of acidity. Both on the nose and palate, this wine captures the salinity of the Pacific, balanced by a round and creamy mouthfeel and long finish.

VINEYARD

100% El Jabali Vineyard

Clones: 70% 548 and 30% Wente

Blocks 3 and 4A

