



2019 John Sebastiano Vineyard Chardonnay, Sta. Rita Hills

91 Points WE

Varietal Composition:

100% Chardonnay

Production:

225 Cases

Vineyards:

John Sebastiano is named for the vineyards two proprietors, John Wagner and Sebastian Sterpa. The vineyard is planted on the extreme Eastern edge of the appellation, as such, it is in a warmer part of the AVA. Soils here are clay-loam underlaid by limestone and vary greatly in depth due to the nature of the slopes and swales of the site. Our Wente clone Chardonnay block is situated on a steep slope that faces directly west and into the winds that blow in off the Pacific Ocean, limiting yields resulting in concentrated flavors.

Winemaking:

The handpicked fruit was gently crushed before being gently pressed, cold settled overnight and then transferred to two used 500 L French oak puncheons, two new Francoise Frere Burgundy barrels and two more neutral barrels for native fermentation. The wine was aged on its lees without stirring for 12 months and then transferred to a stainless tank for an additional 4 months of aging for better oak integration before bottling. Malolactic fermentation was blocked to retain freshness.

Tasting Notes:

The warmer than usual 2019 vintage allowed the fruit to ripen slightly more than in previous vintages at JSV. The 2019 John Sebastiano Vineyard Chardonnay displays a highly aromatic nose of white flower blossoms, salted nuts and hints of toasty oak. The pallet is medium to full bodied with flavors of ripe meyer lemon, pineapple and graham cracker all framed by mouthwatering acidity. This wine will reward time in the cellar or even a short decant. Best served at slightly below cellar temperature.

Technical Data:

pH: 3.25 TA: 7.1 g/L Alc: 13.7%

