

# the hilt

2016

CHARDONNAY

The Hilt is inspired by a single place: Rancho Salsipuedes in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA and its distinctive vineyards, Bentrack, Radian and Puerta del Mar.

## THE OLD GUARD

- Wild, Tense and Energetic

Blocks high up on the ridgelines, where soils are composed primarily of diatomaceous earth and the whipping winds give us grapes, and ultimately wines, that are complex, energetic, taut, and firmly structured. These are the blocks used to craft The Old Guard.

## THE VANGUARD

- Sultry, Opulent and Fruit Driven

Blocks on the long rolling hills, slightly more protected from the wind give us an opulent and richly-textured style of wine. Wine made from grapes grown on these sites take a larger portion of new French oak, and in the end, are more supple and soft. These are the blocks used to craft The Vanguard.

## ESTATE

- Elegant, Complex and Powerful

The remaining blocks of vines on the vineyard are situated on slopes that dip gently into the center of the property, creating a natural basin of vineyard blocks. These blocks give us wines that are less extreme than the blocks used to make The Old Guard or The Vanguard, and thus they are blended together to make Estate, a wine that represents the soul of the property.

## 2016

THE HILT  
CHARDONNAY  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

CASES: 1,360

ALC: 13.4%

VINEYARDS: Bentrack, Radian, Sanford & Benedict and Solomon Hills.  
Vine age between 8-45 years

BARRELS: 40% new French oak, 53% neutral French oak, 7% stainless barrels

Golden peach and lemon oil. Touch of flinty complexity. Fresh baked brioche with apricot. Chamomile notes and candied ginger. Stone fruit and acacia honey on the suave and generous palate. Luminous acidity forms the perfect balance to the notes of sweet cream that emerge on the long and luscious finish. Elegant, refined and full of the tantalizing energy that makes chardonnays from this area so singular and remarkable.

—Winemaker-Matt Dees

### 91 Points

Antonio Galloni *Vinous*

### 93 Points

Jeb Dunnuck *Jebdunnuck.com*

