

the hilt

The Hilt is defined by its three maritime influenced vineyards in the southwest corner of the Sta. Rita Hills appellation: Radian, Bentrack and Puerta del Mar.

The Old Guard and Vanguard wines are style-driven expressions. Vanguard is richly textured, opulent, and velvety, while Old Guard is all about structure. Old Guard wines are complex, energetic, taut, and firmly structured. Each “Guard” is a blended barrel selection of pinot noir or chardonnay in a well-defined style.

The Vanguard chardonnay opens with lush sensuality, and the finish is mouthwatering, focused, and palate cleansing. It is fermented in new French oak. The wine has a rich, opulent mouthfeel and ample mid-palate fruit. Vanguard chardonnays see around 30 percent malolactic fermentation, leaving the wines with its natural, nervy acidity.

2019

VANGUARD CHARDONNAY

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

CASES: 97

ALC: 13%

BARRELS: 11 months in 90% new French oak,
10% neutral barrels then 5 months
in stainless tank

Familiar Vanguard notes of golden peach, baking spice, apricot brioche and Meyer lemon. Truly a profound wine. Opens to show gunflint, wet stones and notes of crème fraiche. Sweet almonds and kumquat preserve. Full of sunshine and energy. The texture is key here. Round and so inviting. Stone fruit density followed by invigorating levels of acid. Beautiful marriage between sun-kissed fruit and ocean-driven cool climate notes. Perfectly defines the sea/sun balance of Santa Barbara County. One for the table and the cellar. A stunner.

—Matt Dees, Winemaker

92 Points

Antonio Galloni *Vinous* 2022

95 Points

Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* 2022

