

the old guard

the hilt

2017

CHARDONNAY

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 The Vanguard wines are style-driven expressions. The Vanguard is richly textured, opulent, and velvety, while The Old Guard is all about structure. The 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 Old Guard chardonnay is like a laser beam, so mineral-laden as to be almost icy, with low pH and high, almost screeching acidity. The Old Guard chardonnay rarely sees any malolactic fermentation and is fermented in stainless steel at cool temperatures to retain freshness and tropical fruit aromas.

2017

THE OLD GUARD
CHARDONNAY
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

CASES: 259
ALC: 13.2%
CLONES: 76, 95, 96, 108 and Wente
BARRELS: 11 months in 90% neutral barrels,
10% new French oak and 6 months in stainless tank.

Tropical, perfumed and pure. Lifted nose with guava, feijoa and gooseberry. Honey notes and a green edge reminiscent of fresh herbs (sage and mint). Terpene-like nuance. So inviting and captivating. Chalky and bracing on the palate with pink lady apple and laser-like acidity. A blend that wows with its precision and individuality. Lithe and savory. Long and so refreshing. Finishes with touch of oyster shell and salt. A fascinating and unique wine in this world.

— Matt Dees, Winemaker

93 Points

Antonio Galloni *Vinous* 2019

94+ Points

Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* 2019

