

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 Old Guard chardonnay is like a laser beam, so mineral-laden as to be almost icy, with low pH and high, almost screeching acidity. Old Guard chardonnay rarely sees any malolactic fermentation and is fermented in stainless steel at cool temperatures to retain freshness and tropical fruit aromas.

2019

OLD GUARD CHARDONNAY

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

CASES: 95

ALC: 13%

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

Truffle honey, ginger, fresh pineapple, peach, thyme and sage. Agave and grapefruit. Filled with sunshine and fruit, but absolutely defined by mineral notes. Delicate touch of complexity and added texture from time on lees. Focused, precise and lifted. On the palate it shines with grapefruit peel, biscuit with marmalade, lemon curd and Maldon salt. Highlighted by and built on a tremendous level of freshness. Saline and long finish. Full of tension and vibrating energy. An unforgettable conclusion to Old Guard Chardonnay. Everything on a different level.

—Matt Dees, Winemaker

94 Points

Antonio Galloni *Vinous* 2022

96 Points

Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* 2022

