



2014 CHARDONNAY

PUERTA DEL MAR
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

311 CASES PRODUCED

Puerta de Mar (literally: “Door to the Sea”) is an exciting new vineyard that was planted using California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS) money. Not being a financial advisor, I will abstain from making any comments on the wisdom of the investment, but I can say that if I won the lottery this is the sort of vineyard I would plant. The vines are closely planted (5½ feet by 3 feet), have been trained to a narrow vertical trellis, and in every way the vineyard is well cared for.

Planted ½ mile east of highway 1 just outside of Lompoc, it trumps Kick On Ranch as our coolest vineyard site. It is located so far west that the original creators of the Santa Rita Hills appellation didn’t think it was possible to ripen grapes here, thus it wasn’t included within the growing region’s boundaries. Call it ignorance or the influence of global warming, they were clearly wrong! Admittedly the pinot noir and chardonnay grown here ripen late, but the wines are better for it and possess an admirable subtlety that I attribute to the ocean’s ever-present influence.

Southern California has a reputation of always having the same weather, but it is actually quite variable—one summer might be hot and the next foggy—and that greatly affects the grape’s composition and ultimately how the wine will taste. This vineyard suffers through lots of fog and wind in the spring, giving us small yields. But there was no problem with ripening—summer and fall were ideal in 2014. The wine has the unique exotic spices (cardamom) aroma that is identifiably Puerta del Mar.

BLEND 100% Chardonnay
VINEYARDS Puerta Del Mar
AVA Santa Barbara County
ALCOHOL 13.5%
VINIFICATION 10% New French Oak
BARREL AGING 11 Months
TOTAL PRODUCTION 311 Cases

109 S. MONTGOMERY ST. OJAI, CALIFORNIA
805.798.3947
TASTINGROOM@OJAI VINEYARD.COM
OJAI VINEYARD.COM

THE
OJAI
VINEYARD