



2015 CHARDONNAY

PUERTA DEL MAR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

563 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.

2015 continued the streak of vintages since 2012 that were particularly warm and early, though the crop was the smallest since 2011. This warmth gave us wines that have been particularly easy going and delicious, and in 2015 they have an intensity and drive that wasn't seen in the other warm years.

BLEND 100% Chardonnay
VINEYARDS Puerta Del Mar
AVA Santa Barbara County
ALCOHOL 13.5%
VINIFICATION 7% New French Oak
BARREL AGING 11 Months
TOTAL PRODUCTION 563 Cases

PRESS REVIEWS

Jeb Dunnuck

Coming from a very western, downright cold site that's farmed by the Jonata team, the 2015 Chardonnay Puerta Del Mar is clean, crisp and classically styled. Lemon, white flowers, ripe citrus and plenty of salty minerality give way to a gorgeous, tight, crisp beauty that will blossom with another 2-3 years in bottle.- JD 94+ Points

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