



2018 CHARDONNAY

PUERTA DEL MAR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Puerta Del Mar sits way out West of Sta. Rita Hills, where the climate is exceptionally moderated by the nearby Pacific Ocean. We have six level acres of Chardonnay & Pinot Noir Dijon clones planted on deep calcareous gravel there. Each year our Chardonnay from this super-coastal vineyard flies in the face of every jaded notion about California Chardonnay can be.

At the Tasting Room our staff likes calling it "The Ballerina," because it shows a delicate kind of grace and weightlessness in the way it moves across the palate. This 2018 is very much this way. After some July heat the weather turned mild for the rest of the season, and down-right cool here. We harvested this fruit in the last days of September.

Of our 2018 Chardonnays the Puerta Del Mar is the most embryonic. The fruit here is more backward, aromatically anyway. It shows citrus pith but is more grounded in stones, flowers, lemongrass and cardamom. It's an earthy expression and will likely hold that bias throughout the long life ahead.

The wine does open up beautifully though. Air brings out a playful fleeting fleshiness as the wine expands into crunchy pear and white stone fruit. There's a subtle vanilla richness too, though the zingy preserved lemon component speeds the wine along before you'd pause to call it rich. Like other past vintages this wine will develop a deliciously laid-back nature after a couple of years in bottle. At this time it's a super-focused Chardonnay, with a long finish that's chalky and citric. We enjoy this Chardonnay with sashimi or shellfish when Riesling or Sauvignon Blanc seem too loud for the moment.

BLEND 100% Chardonnay
VINEYARDS Puerta Del Mar
AVA Santa Barbara County
ALCOHOL 13%
VINIFICATION 16% New French Oak
BARREL AGING 8 Months
TOTAL PRODUCTION 442 Cases

PRESS REVIEWS

Antonio Galloni's Vinous

"The 2018 Chardonnay Puerta Del Mar is bright and finely sculpted. Lemon oil, white flowers, mint, and a range of saline-infused overtones all grace the 2018. Weightless and yet full of flavor, the 2018 is positively stellar. It is yet another fabulous white in this range of new releases from Ojai and a terrific example of the far western edge of Santa Barbara County that is outside of the Sta. Rita Hills appellation." 95 Points

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

THE
OJAI
VINEYARD