

2023 CHARDONNAY CLIMA FRÍO

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

TASTING NOTE:

This 2023 Chardonnay is the first of our new Clima Frío series, and we couldn't ask for a better vintage to debut this concept. Coming from two vineyards in the Western fringes of Santa Barbara County, this Chardonnay speaks to the nearby ocean's influence. Coastal scents of sea spray and chalk are layered over candied lemon, almond blossoms, and leesiness that evokes sugar cookies. On the palate there's great harmony between nervy citrus leanings and fleshy notes of stone fruit. Tense isn't the right word; everything is too integrated. The balance is terrific and the wine closes with delicate spice, leesy richness and refreshing stony minerality.

ABOUT CLIMA FRÍO:

Our Clima Frío wines replace what we used to call Santa Barbara County cuvees. While that appellation-level name fit our Burgundian inspirations at The Ojai Vineyard, the name didn't adequately capture what we're doing in the region. Santa Barbara County is a large appellation with intense East-West temperature gradients, even within the Sta. Rita Hills, where some Eastern pockets are better suited to Syrah and Grenache than they are for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

The Clima Frío (or cool-climate) wines express our commitment to the coolest, most Western viticultural pockets of our region. Places where each variety benefits from ocean influence that ensures slow, gradual ripening and retention of nuance and natural acidity.

This 2023 Clima Frío Chardonnay comes from grapes grown at Rancho Ontiveros in the Santa Maria Valley (56%), along with fruit from Yellow Foxtrot (44%), a newer planting that's nestled in the hills very close to Lompoc (just Northwest of the Sta. Rita Hills).

BLEND 100% Chardonnay

VINEYARDS Rancho Ontiveros (56%), Yellow Foxtrot (44%)

AVA Santa Barbara County

ALCOHOL 13.0%

VINIFICATION barrel fermented, aged on lees until bottling

BARREL AGING 9 months in French oak, 5% new

TOTAL PRODUCTION 989 Cases

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THE
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