

# almarosa

winery & vineyards

## 2017 Sta. Rita Hills Chardonnay

### WHO WE ARE

Alma Rosa is deeply rooted in the winemaking history of the Santa Rosa Hills in the southern sector of the Sta. Rita Hills AVA. Here, growing conditions combine sunshine with the powerful cooling influence of onshore winds and fog from the Pacific Ocean. The unique geography, chilly climate, and clay-loam soils attracted Richard Sanford to this area in the early 70s when he pioneered Pinot Noir in Santa Barbara County. In 1983 he established El Jabali on our home ranch as the first organically certified vineyards in Santa Barbara County. Growing consistently balanced wines through organic farming is part of the enduring legacy of founder Richard Sanford.

### VINEYARDS

Sourced from vineyards along Santa Rosa Road, the southern boundary of the appellation.

### VINTAGE NOTES

Following a wet winter with several storms that dropped a total of 20 inches of rain in the Sta. Rita Hills, the 2017 growing season was largely uneventful. Occasional heat spikes were followed by cooling fog and winds that moderated the vintage and led to a mid-September harvest. An intense heat spell during the second week of September was punctuated by one night of heavy, monsoonal rain. Picking occurred after the heat spell under moderate conditions and fair skies.

### WINEMAKING

- Harvested at night in mid September.
- Fermented in stainless at elevated temperatures for both mouthfeel and citrus aromatics.
- Élevage: 14 months used French oak on the fermentation lees.
- Bottled after a light fining for clarity and texture with isinglass and skim milk.

### TASTING NOTES

Brilliant green gold in the glass, this Chardonnay charms with fragrant pear, ripe melon and fresh apple aromas in the nose. Subtle white peach, lychee and faint vanilla notes emerge with more air. The aromas follow through on the palate with similar integrated fruit flavors surrounding a sleek lemon/lime core of acidity. The citrus fruit structure merges with apple flavors and extends into the finish which has a lingering fruit and green spice glow. Our 2017 Sta Rita Hills Chardonnay has a seamless and polished quality that will please the expert and novice alike.

**CLONE:** Various

**PRODUCTION:** 700 cases

**ALCOHOL:** 13.9%

