

2016 CHARDONNAY

SOLOMON HILLS SANTA MARIA VALLEY

This Solomon Hills chardonnay comes from the benevolent 2016 vintage, which brought the fog inland again after 4 years of being parked offshore. Mild and sunny summer afternoons in Santa Maria were framed by cool grey mornings and evenings, which made for an especially savory chardonnay from this cool-climate and sandy soiled vineyard.

Aromatically, there's a land-meets-sea kind of earthiness here that reminds me of some of my favorite white burgundies. Parking your nose into a glass of this reveals crushed seashells, chamomile flowers, brioche, and that distinct drying pine needle aroma that often comes from this site. With such a savory spread of aromas it's a bit of a shock when the mid-palate flourishes with juicy pear and apple flavors, which close with a citrusy mineral prickle.

There is density to Solomon Hills; each year it's our most structured and full-bodied chardonnay. But above that it speaks to elegance and balance, purring along in fourth gear rather than going full throttle. Chardonnay from this site often reminds me of the ones I made from Talley years ago (though with less oak influence), and some of those from the 90s are still drinking well. Like those wines, this Solomon Hills is a worthy white to tuck away for years. It's expressive and delicious already though, so good luck with that!

BLEND 100% Chardonnay
VINEYARDS Solomon Hills
AVA Santa Maria Valley
ALCOHOL 13%
VINIFICATION 100% Neutral French Oak
BARREL AGING 11 Months
TOTAL PRODUCTION 338 Cases

PRESS REVIEWS

Jeb Dunnuck

"One of the standouts is the 2016 Chardonnay Solomon Hills, which comes from a cool site in the Santa Maria Valley, not far from Bien Nacido. This sensational effort offers notes of apple blossoms, crushed citrus, and exotic flowers, with more and more brioche and marzipan notes developing with time in the glass. Deep, layered, and concentrated, yet also incredibly pure and elegant, it's a remarkably complete Chardonnay that does everything right. Don't miss it!" Jeb Dunnuck - **96 Points**

Antonio Galloni's Vinous

"The 2016 Chardonnay Solomon Hills is quite open and accessible in this vintage, almost surprisingly so. Orange, apricot and lightly tropical notes give the Solomon Hills its distinctive feel in this vintage. There is plenty of intrigue as well as near term appeal to the Solomon Hills in 2016." - AG **93 Points**

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

"The 2016 Chardonnay Solomon Hills reveals a lovely bouquet of crisp apple, citrus blossom, white peach and stuck match, which is still digesting its sulfur addition from bottling. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied, tight-knit and saline, with bright acids and a long, briny finish. This will need a little time to bounce back after bottling, but it's an inherently lovely wine that I'd be inclined to give a year or two in bottle."- William Kelley **92 Points**

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

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OJAI
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