



- Bottled: March, 2017
- 4,237 cases produced
- pH 3.41
- Alcohol 14.2%

2016 Alma Rosa Chardonnay Santa Barbara County

WHO WE ARE

Alma Rosa is deeply rooted in the winemaking history of the Santa Rosa hills, inside the Sta. Rita Hills AVA. Growing conditions combine here more sunshine than Southern Europe with the powerful cooling influence of onshore winds and fog from Pacific Ocean. The unique geography, moderate climate and clay-loam soils attracted Richard Sanford to this area in the early 70's, where he pioneered Pinot Noir in Santa Barbara County decades before the "Sideways" movie craze. In 1983 he established on our home ranch one of the first organic-certified vineyards in the Central Coast.

Growing consistently balanced wines through sustainable farming is part of the enduring legacy of founder Richard Sanford. The dynamic equilibrium of Alma Rosa wines is now crafted by winemaker Nick De Luca, vividly capturing the individual character of each vineyard we work with.

VINTAGE NOTES

On the heels of the fourth drought winter running, 2016 turned out to be an oddly normal vintage. Though bud break was early by about two weeks, a largely cool summer stretched harvest into a normal window. The final week of September brought two heat spikes, rocketing the last of the fruit hanging in the Sta. Rita Hills to ripeness. The wines show a nice balance of fruit, acid, tannin, and alcohol.

VINEYARDS

- Sourced mainly from the Los Alamos corridor, from vineyards planted on the well-drained, de-vigorating ancient sand dunes characteristic of the area.
- Small amounts of fruit from the southern Santa Maria Valley and the eastern Sta. Rita Hills round out the blend and add nerve and length.

WINEMAKING

- 85% stainless-steel fermented for bright and crisp aromas and mouthfeel
- 15% barrel-fermented in neutral oak with full malolactic conversion
- Aged on fermentation lees for 7 months lending a creamy mouthfeel with fig and hazelnut aromatics.

TASTING NOTES

Aromas of lemon meringue pie, hazelnut, and wet gravel give way to a palate marked by tangerine peel and the earthy richness commonly associated with the Los Alamos area. Hints of mango from the Santa Maria component and a strong mineral streak from the Sta. Rita hills fruit round out and liven up the wine.