

2021 Wrath Chardonnay, Fermata

Overview

Wrath represents a nexus of nature and an unbridled passion for winemaking. We produce site-driven Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Syrah, Falanghina and Sauvignon Blanc from our estate vineyard and respected properties in the Santa Lucia Highlands. Our production is small, our distribution is limited and our wines reveal attitude, passion, and an inherent respect for what a vineyard can give us.

Philosophy

Our wines are a record of the topography, geology and climate of a finite, naturally defined piece of land over the span of a growing season. They chronicle the elaborate dance between terroir, grape, people and time. While all of our wines possess strong varietal characteristics, their real strength is their ability to deliver the unique aromatics, flavors and textures of a specific site.

Vineyard

Our Estate San Saba Vineyard is set in a sheltered nook just below the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA. The estate consists of 72 acres of which 67.75 are planted to Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah and Falanghina. This is a cool site with little rainfall and one of the longest growing seasons in the world. Our soils, Arroyo Gravelly Loam and Hanford Gravely Sandy Loam, provide a low-vigor, well-draining, disease- and pest-free medium for our vines. They also impart a subtle mineral quality to our wines.

To preserve our local ecosystem, we have worked with viticultural consultant Steve McIntyre to develop a sustainable farming program, certified by CCVT, tailored to our estate. In addition to protecting the local environment, we believe it allows us to produce wines that are more authentic and specific to our terroir.

Production Notes

The 2021 vintage in Monterey began with colder than usual winter temps so budbreak happened later than early-mid February, which is the norm. However, summer temperatures were cooler than the usual so vines had a chance to ripen slowly and completely. All in all, it was one of the best growing seasons in several years and resulted in high quality fruit and slightly better than usual yields. "Fermata" is Italian for halted. Wrath's Fermata Chardonnay is so named because we utilize lots in which the malolactic fermentation has been halted at about 50 percent. We believe this gives the resulting wine more precision and interest. Grapes are handpicked and hand sorted. After pressing the wine is barrel fermented; some barrels inoculated with Montrachet yeast and others ferment slower, utilizing the natural yeast found in the winery. Blended primarily with Mt Eden and four other clones from our estate vineyard, the wine ages for 10 months in French oak, 20 percent of which is new.

Technical Data

Composition 100% Chardonnay Vineyard San Saba Vineyard

AVA Monterey

Clones 35% Mt. Eden, 24% Clone 96, 18% Wente & Clone 17, 5% Kistler

Oak French oak, 20% new

Alcohol 13.9% Cases 392 Suggested Retail \$35