



Press for Current Vintage Wines

2019 Chardonnay Sta. Rita Hills

Vineyards: 45% Kessler Haak, 20% John Sebastiano, 20% Donnachadh, 15% Zotovich
(new release and has not yet been rated; please see press on our 2018 vintage below)

92 points ('18), Wine Advocate

"The 2018 Chardonnay Sta. Rita Hills opens with exotic spices and honeyed touches over a core of white peaches, quince and floral perfume. The medium-bodied palate is rounded and silky with loads of spicy fruits and juicy freshness extending through the long finish. Lovely!"

Erin Brooks, Oct 2020

92 points ('18), Wine Enthusiast

"Scorched grapefruit, lemon pith and oak-smoke aromas show on the nose of this bottling by winemaker Matt Brady, in only his second stab at this grape. It's tightly textured on the palate, where warm tones of butter and peach meet with savory sea salt."

Matt Kettmann, July 2020

91 points ('18), Vinous

"The 2018 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills) is open-knit, gracious and inviting. Gentle hints of apricot, lemon confit and spice give this nuanced Chardonnay a good bit of both immediacy and appeal."

Antonio Galloni, Aug 2020

90 points ('18), Jeb Dunnock

"The 2018 Chardonnay Sta. Rita Hills offers salty notes of orchard fruits, lemon cured, and toasted spices. It's medium-bodied and has beautiful balance, integrated acidity, and a great finish."

Jeb Dunnock, Aug 2020

2019 Chardonnay Zotovich Vineyard -Sta. Rita Hills

(new release and has not yet been rated; please see press on our 2018 vintage below)

94 points ('18), Vinous

"The 2018 Chardonnay Zotovich Vineyard is the highlight in this range from SAMsARA. Crushed rocks, citrus, savory herbs and minerals give this effusive Chardonnay so much character. This is an especially taut style, but it works nicely."

Antonio Galloni, Aug 2020

91 points ('18), Wine Advocate

"Youthfully shy, the 2018 Chardonnay Zotovich Vineyard has soft hints of white blossoms and spiced stone fruits with a hint of salted almonds. The palate is medium-bodied, round and silky with savory flavors and tangy acidity, finishing long and lively."

Erin Brooks, Oct 2020



2019 Chardonnay Zotovich Vineyard -Sta. Rita Hills (continued)

(new release and has not yet been rated; please see press on our 2018 vintage below)

91 points ('18), Jeb Dunnuck

"More white flowers, lemon sabayon, and salty, crushed rock-like notes emerge from the 2018 Chardonnay Zotovich Vineyard, another juicy, elegant Chardonnay from this estate. It's going to put on a touch of density and weight with a year or two of bottle age and keep through 2030."

Jeb Dunnuck, Aug 2020

90 points ('18), Wine Enthusiast

"Tangy lime, nectarine and a bit of gardenia show on the tightly woven nose of this bottling, the first grapes processed at the winery's new Goleta facility. There are focused citrus tones to the sip, from kumquat to lime and orange rind, with a penetrating, dominant acidity."

Matt Kettmann, Nov 2020

2017 Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills

Vineyards: Rancho La Vina, Rio Vista, Kessler Haak, Cargassachi, Las Hermanas

93 points, Wine Enthusiast

"This appellation blend offers aromas of cracked pepper, sagebrush, fennel frond and wild thyme on the savory nose. The palate brings flavors of black raspberry and roasted tomato spiced with abundant peppercorns."

Matt Kettmann, Aug 2020

92 points, Wine Advocate

"The 2017 Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills is a delicate, perfumed Pinot with a medium ruby color and scents of dried cranberries, blackberries and blueberries plus notes of bergamot, tree bark and earth. The palate is light to medium-bodied with bright, bitters-laced flavors, a soft frame and nuanced finish."

Erin Brooks, Oct 2020

90 points, Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2017 Pinot Noir Sta Hills shows lots of stemmy notes as well as bright raspberry and strawberry fruits, medium-bodied richness, a fresh, focused texture, and outstanding length. Drink it over the coming 10-12 years."

Jeb Dunnuck, Aug 2020

2015 Pinot Noir Las Hermanas Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills

95 points, Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2015 Pinot Noir Las Hermanas Vineyard offers an earthier, more gamey style, with ample forest floor, lavender, tart cherry, and sous bois aromas and flavors. The Gevrey-Chambertin in the lineup, with a decidedly Burgundian flare, this beauty is layered and elegant on the palate, with plenty of saltiness and minerality. Drink it over the coming decade."

Jeb Dunnuck, Oct 2018



2015 Pinot Noir Las Hermanas Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills (continued)

93 points, Wine Advocate

"The pale to medium ruby colored 2015 Pinot Noir Las Hermanas is open on the nose, giving up dried rose petal and orange oil, Earl Grey tea, pink peppercorn, pipe tobacco and dusty earth with crushed strawberries, rhubarb and warm black and red cherries and berries. Light to medium-bodied and very silky, it gives up intense spicy fruits with pleasantly dusty tannins and juicy acidity, finishing long, energetic and spicy."

Erin Brooks, Sept 2019

92 points, Wine Enthusiast

"Black-raspberry aromas are lifted by lavender, peppercorns and eucalyptus on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. Bay leaf flavors are strong on the palate, giving herbal energy to the tangy, underripe red-fruit base."

Matt Kettmann, Oct 2019

2015 Pinot Noir Rancho La Vina Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills

94 points, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Pinot Noir Rancho la Vina Vineyard has a pale to medium ruby color with aromas of blueberries, roses, crushed stone, tobacco, saline and tangerine peel with rhubarb, strawberry, warm red and black cherries and blackberries with tinges of woodsmoke and earth. The light to medium-bodied palate is silky, featuring broody spices and fruits and swelling with pleasantly chewy tannins and juicy freshness before finishing with tons of vibrant energy."

Erin Brooks, Sept 2019

93 points, Jeb Dunnuck

"Smoked red fruits, dried herbs, sous bois, and earth all emerge from the 2015 Pinot Noir Rancho La Vina Vineyard. Another powerful, concentrated Pinot Noir, it balances its richness nicely with purity and elegance."

Jeb Dunnuck, Oct 2018

91 points, Vinous

"The 2015 Pinot Noir Rancho La Viña Vineyard is one of the most immediate wines in the range, as it has tremendous fruit density and mid-palate resonance, while remaining in the savory style that defines all the SAMsARA Pinots in 2015. Big tannins give the 2015 a slightly rough around the edges feel, and yet everything in the wine works very nicely together."

Antonio Galloni, Sept 2018

91 points, Wine Enthusiast

"Cranberry and pomegranate meet with toasty oak and wet gravel on the nose of this bottling from a winery now based in the suburban lands of Goleta. The palate is bright and tangy with those red fruits, and layered with thyme and wild herbs."

Matt Kettmann, Oct 2019

SAMSARA



WINE CO

2017 Syrah Santa Barbara County (85% Syrah/15% Grenache)

Vineyards: Zotovich, John Sebastiano, Donnachadh, Colson Canyon, Zaca Mesa

92 points, Wine Advocate

"The 2017 Syrah Santa Barbara County has a medium ruby-purple color and a nose of crushed black and blue berry fruits with touches of mint chocolate, olive and charcuterie. It's medium-bodied with Goldilocks ripeness and savory accents, finely framed and finishing long with bright pops of freshness. It's a lovely, understated style."

Erin Brooks, Oct 2020

92 points, Wine Enthusiast

"Very tarry aromas of asphalt, black pepper dust and charred wood give a savory wrapping to the underlying blackberry tone of this county blend. There's a tangy berry flavor to the palate, where peppery spices meet with wild thyme and green-herb flavors."

Matt Kettmann, July 2020

2017 Syrah Zotovich Vineyard – Sta. Rita Hills

94 points, Jeb Dunnuck

"There are four Syrahs, all seeing plenty of stems and neutral oak. Starting with the 2017 Syrah Zotovich Vineyard, its deep purple/plum color is followed by a great nose of smoked black fruits, chocolate, toasted nuts, sappy violets, and gamey meats. This peppery, medium to full-bodied, silky, and complex Syrah will keep for 10-12 years."

Jeb Dunnuck, Aug 2020

94 points, Wine Enthusiast

"Green peppercorns, damp seaweed, blistered plum skins and dried purple flowers make for a savory expression of cool climate Syrah in this bottling. Sansho pepper dust, pine needles and dank mushroom flavors consume the palate, with a touch of tight berries."

Matt Kettmann, Aug 2020

93 points, Wine Advocate

"The medium ruby-purple colored 2017 Syrah Zotovich Vineyard has classic notes of cracked pepper, crushed boysenberry and blueberry fruit, with notes of bitter chocolate and coffee beans. The palate is medium to full-bodied with crunchy, peppery fruits, a firm, grainy, super fresh frame and a long, layered finish."

Erin Brooks, Oct 2020

93 points, Decanter

"Samsara Wine Co. made 140 cases of Syrah from the Zotovich Vineyard in 2017. The nose shows the high percentage of stems used (80%), with aromas of green olive, mustard, and dried brush. The palate is racy and high-toned, with notes of red plum, black cherries and liquorice. It is good to see Syrah handled in the same, hands-off and elegant way as the Samsara Pinot Noirs now are."

Matthew Luczy, July 2019



2017 Grenache Larner Vineyard – Ballard Canyon

93 points, Decanter

"Samsara's Larner Vineyard Grenache is a charming example of not only the varietal's potential in Ballard Canyon, but the elegance possible from well-executed whole cluster fermentation. 100 cases produced. Aromas of grilled strawberries and white pepper on the nose lead to a weightless, herbal and deft palate. The texture is fine and high-toned, with the whole clusters providing a succulent, bright energy to the finish."

Matthew Luczy, July 2019

91 points, Wine Enthusiast

"Light and delicate in style, this bottling offers aromas of fresh berry and a pinch of baking spice on the nose. The palate is clean and tight with strawberry and raspberry flavors, leading into fresh and inviting hibiscus and rosewater touches."

Matt Kettmann, July 2020

90 points, Wine Advocate

"Pale ruby-purple, the 2017 Grenache Larner Vineyard opens with delicate lavender and blueberries with notes of blood orange and forest floor. The palate is light to medium-bodied with delicate flavors, a gently chalky frame and good freshness."

Erin Brooks, Oct 2020