

the hilt

The Hilt wines are inspired by a single place: Rancho Salsipuedes in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA and its distinctive vineyards, Bentrack, Radian and Puerta del Mar.

THE OLD GUARD - Wild, Tense and Energetic Blocks high up on the ridgelines, where soils are composed primarily of diatomaceous earth and the whipping winds give us grapes, and ultimately wines, that are complex, energetic, taut, and firmly structured. These are the blocks used to craft The Old Guard.

THE VANGUARD - Sultry, Opulent and Fruit Driven Blocks on the long rolling hills, slightly more protected from the wind give us an opulent and richly-textured style of wine. Wine made from grapes grown on these sites take larger portions of new French oak, and in the end, are dense yet supple. These are the blocks used to craft The Vanguard.

ESTATE - Flirtatious The remaining blocks of vines on the vineyard are situated on slopes that dip gently into the center of the property, creating a natural basin of vineyard blocks. These blocks give us wines that are less extreme than the blocks used to make The Old Guard or The Vanguard, and thus they are blended together to make the Estate wines which represent the soul of the property.

2015

THE HILT
CHARDONNAY
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

CASES: 480
VINEYARDS: Radian, Sanford & Benedict and Solomon Hills. Vine age between 8, 14 and 44 years.
BARRELS: 40% new French oak, 53% neutral French oak, 7% stainless barrels
ALC.: 13.4

Sumptuous nose. Like walking into a kitchen baking tarte Tatin. Aromatic notes of citrus oil, baking spice, golden peach, custard, loquat and plumeria flower. Concentrated and rich with the 2015 decadence, yet remains buoyant and fresh. Light touch of oak adds depth to the finish that features palate-cleansing vigor.
— Winemaker-Matt Dees

90-93 Points

Review by Jeb Dunnuck
The Wine Advocate August 2016

92 Points

JebDunnuck.com August 2017

91-93 Points

Review by Antonio Galloni *Vinous*
September 2016

