

# the hilt

The Hilt champions pinot noir and chardonnay from the climate margins of California's coastal winegrowing regions—Santa Barbara County's Sta. Rita Hills and Santa Maria Valley AVA's prominent among them. Two schools of winemaking form The Hilt's view of chardonnay and pinot noir:

## THE OLD GUARD

The Old Guard wines encompass a restrained elegance and balance. Flavor and textural elements take on a new complexity-and minerality is often more notable. The aromas and flavors of The Old Guard tend to be more savory, and quietly forceful. A rooted sensibility overtakes brash exuberance.

## THE VANGUARD

The Vanguard focuses on what is new in the world, if you will, which is often anchored by wines that are produced with lusher, fleshy, fruit-driven qualities—often referred to as baby fat—a style that owns a distinct place in the chardonnay and pinot noir field. The aromas and flavors in The Vanguard are more round and more forward—bristling with enthusiasm and elegance.

## 2010

THE OLD GUARD  
CHARDONNAY  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

CASES: 297  
ALC: 14.1%  
CLONES: Mt Eden and 96  
BARRELS: 25% new French oak, 50% neutral oak, 25% stainless barrels

At this stage, this wine is completely driven by its strong core of minerality and the electricity generated by its mouthwatering acidity. Out of the bottle it immediately displays notes of baked apple, lime zest, honey, chamomile and classic chardonnay flintiness. A stony coolness from the combination of the old vines and the stainless ferments brings a level of restraint and austerity that adds elegance to the layers that quickly build up on the palate. Fruit density from the low yielding vines and toasty notes from the barrel ferments add richness and length. For a cool climate chardonnay it displays remarkable amounts of fruit alongside the expected notes of citrus, stone and oyster shell brininess. A wine of unusual depth, elegance, tension and balance, the 2010 Hilt Old Guard Chardonnay drinks exceptionally well today, but should be at its best with a few years in the cellar.

**93 Points**  
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