

the vanguard

# the hilt

2015

CHARDONNAY

The Hilt is 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 a larger portion of new French oak, and in the end, are more supple and soft. 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 Estate, a wine that represents the soul of the property.

## 2015

THE VANGUARD  
CHARDONNAY  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

CASES: 398

ALC: 13.4%

VINEYARDS: Bentrack, Radian, Sanford & Benedict, Bien Nacido. Vine age between 8-45 years

BARRELS: 11 months in 90% new French oak, 10% neutral barrels then 6 months in stainless tank.

Tightly coiled and tense at first. Slowly and steadily hinting at the incredible power and concentration in the glass. Orange blossom, beeswax, gunflint, marzipan and Meyer lemon. Precise and powerful on the palate. Solid core of citrus fruit, almond and loquat. Touch of toasted oak. Fresh and light as a feather on the long finish. Hint of malolactic softness and roundness. Pure 2015 with everything in its right place and all senses elevated to a higher level.

— Matt Dees, Winemaker

### 92 Points

Lisa Perrotti-Brown *The Wine Advocate* Sept. 2017

### 94 Points

Antonio Galloni *Vinous* Sept. 2017

### 95 Points

Jeb Dunnuck August 2016

