



## VARAxLG CHARDONNAY 2022

100% Chardonnay  
Single vineyard: Rancho de Ontiveros  
Santa Maria AVA, California, USA

TA: 8.0 g/L  
pH: 3.28  
ABV: 12.5  
Bottled: October 2023  
Winemaker: Laurent Gruet  
Case production: 135 cases

### WINEMAKERS NOTES

The 2022 growing season in the Santa Maria AVA was the driest year on record, with periods of record heat resulting in intensely flavored grapes. Harvested in September, the vines maintained higher malic acidity, producing a bright and lively wine. Fermented at a low temperature of 60F for three weeks to maintain delicate aromas, this wine underwent no malolactic fermentation. Instead, it was matured for 12 months in 67% neutral oak and 33% new French oak puncheons, imparting an elegant and refined character.

### TASTING NOTES

Lightly oaky with a nuttiness on the nose, this wine has a bright acidity on the palate, with notes of honey, almond skins, and green pear that round out to a creaminess with just a hint of malo. Flavors linger on your tongue with some acidity at the end.

### SERVING SUGGESTIONS

This wine is perfect with shellfish dishes, like oysters, a country-style fish-paté, or smoked trout spread. It also pairs well with Gouda or Comte cheeses. Our Chef enjoys it with a caramelized red onion tart.

