



## 2017 CHARDONNAY

### WINERY HISTORY

In 1972, the Zaca Mesa property was purchased by a group of friends. With few other vineyards to learn from, the vineyard was originally planted in 1973 with numerous grape varieties to see what would work. By the late-80s we had determined based on our farming experience that the Rhône varieties grew best on our property. Since then we have focused our efforts on growing world-class examples of Syrah and other Rhône varieties through meticulous farming and traditional winemaking techniques.

### HOMAGE COLLECTION

This collection of four wines is a tribute to the grapes once produced here at Zaca Mesa. We have selected several iconic Santa Barbara County vineyards that produce fruit of the highest distinction and quality. These vineyards represent the pinnacle of each varietal, just as Zaca Mesa Vineyards represents the pinnacle of California Rhône-style varietals.

Sierra Madre vineyard is located in the Santa Maria Valley. A mere 15 miles from the ocean, the cold Pacific breezes combined with free-draining sandy soils make this iconic vineyard ideal for growing some of Santa Barbara County's most highly prized Chardonnay.

### GROWING SEASON

2017 had an above average rainfall year which led to healthy cover crops and balanced soil health; providing much needed nutrients to the vines. Bud-break in late February through March was the start to a fairly uneventful spring, free from frost. The only disruption was during the month of May, when fluctuating temperatures and wind gave us a poor bloom and set, which resulted in a slight reduction in yields for certain red varieties. Going into the summer months the temperatures were mild until early July when we had excessive heat and wind. The temperatures in late July backed off, only to return in mid to late August, kick-starting our harvest, the first week in September.

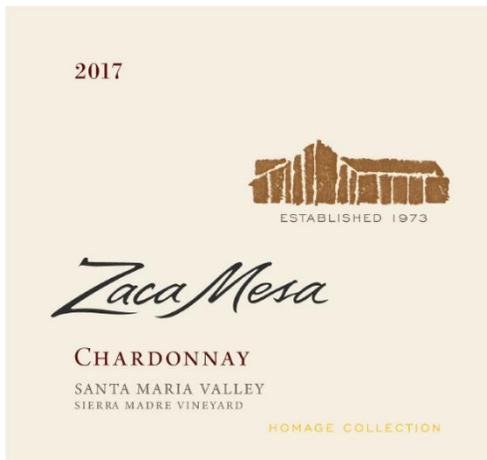
### WINEMAKING

These Chardonnay grapes were hand-picked and sorted in the vineyard. Once they arrived at the winery they were whole cluster pressed into tank for cold settling. The juice was then racked to barrel for fermentation and sur lie aging. A portion of the wine was encouraged to complete malolactic fermentation. After a nine month élevage the wine was bottled.

### THE WINE

The Chardonnay grape has a long history at Zaca Mesa Winery & Vineyards. It dates back to the original planting of Zaca Vineyards in 1973 and has been an integral part of our program since those early years.

This single vineyard Chardonnay from Sierra Madre is intense with aromas of tropical fruits, golden apple, and crushed rock. The plush middle palate carries flavors of fresh pineapple and Honeycrisp apple that transition into a long mineral driven finish complemented by flavors of cinnamon dusted pie crust.



### COMPOSITION

100% Chardonnay

### VINEYARD

Sierra Madre Vineyard

### HARVEST DATE

September 22, 2017

### APPELLATION

Santa Maria Valley

### AGING

9 months in 22% New French Oak

### pH | TA

3.23 | 0.649 g/100mL

### ALCOHOL

13.1%

### BOTTLED

July 24, 2018

### CASES PRODUCED

349 cases

### WINEMAKING AND VINEYARD TEAM

Eric, Kristin, Agustin, Ruben, Jose, Angel, Randy, & Ramirez