



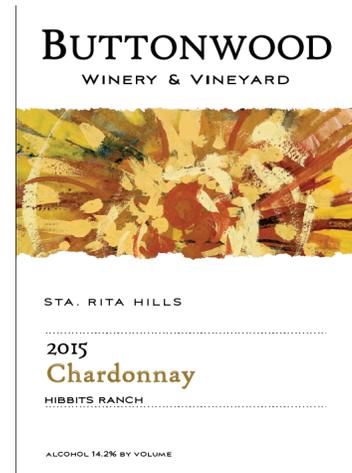
BUTTONWOOD

WINERY & VINEYARD

2015 Chardonnay

GROWN ON THE HIBBITS RANCH IN THE COOL CLIMATE STA. RITA HILLS

OVERVIEW	A triumvirate of tastes and textures - sassy, creamy, hints of toasty. We love it with roasted chicken, chile rellenos and risotto.
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BLEND	100% Chardonnay
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SPECS	14.2% Alcohol, 3.24 pH, 6.5 g/L acidity
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PRODUCTION	51 cases bottled in-house December 2015
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IN THE VINEYARD

The Hibbits Ranch is a small, steeply-sloped vineyard on the very western edge of the Sta. Rita Hills AVA. Most of the vineyard is planted to a variety of pinot noir clones, but intermingled among those is a small amount of chardonnay, much of it the revered Wente clone, interspersed with clones 76 and 96.

THE VINTAGE

The 2014 harvest was one of the earliest on record. Summer-like weather in January and no frost combined with continued drought conditions to accelerate the growing season. Serendipitously, the vines produced a balanced, beautiful and bountiful crop. The gorgeous clusters of Chardonnay were plucked from the vine on September 5, 2014.

WINEMAKING

The 1.49 ton of grapes were whole cluster pressed to a cold stainless steel tank and then inoculated with CH9 yeast. After 10 days of a cool, slow ferment, the wine was transferred to a combination of once-used, neutral and stainless steel barrels where it completed primary fermentation and went through a partial malo-lactic ferment (~30%). The wine continued to evolve in barrel until November 2015 when it was blended, fined with bentonite clay for heat stability and cold stabilized. It was filtered and bottled in December 2015. Vegan.

TASTING NOTES

The combination of oak and stainless steel results in a mélange of texture – creamy *and* crisp! Apple butter and citrus on the nose, a hint of tropical guava mingling with tangerine on the palate and a long, lingering reminder of true vanilla and lemon-lime.

THE ARTIST SERIES LABEL ORIGINAL ART BY CO-OWNER SEYBURN ZORTHIAN

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