



MORGAN

2023 Highland Chardonnay



PLACE

Located in the well-drained foothills above the Salinas Valley, the Santa Lucia Highlands appellation features perfect conditions for growing award-winning chardonnay. Nearby Monterey Bay's ocean breezes cool the appellation, leading to a long growing season and gentle ripening.

With each vintage of Highland Chardonnay, we showcase the unique attributes of the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA. The 2023 cuvée includes 50% fruit from our certified organic Double L estate, with the balance from outstanding neighbors, including McIntyre and Tondré vineyards.

VINTAGE

The 2023 season began with a classically cold and legendarily wet winter and spring (40% above average rainfall in Monterey County) which delayed bud break, bloom, and fruit set. Healthy crop loads and canopies developed through the summer, necessitating extra hedging to manage shade amid relatively high mildew pressure. Harvest began on September 21st, and concluded on November 8th after nearly two months of beautiful weather. The resulting wines are fresh and aromatic, with bright acidity, and elegant texture.

WINE

The grapes were hand picked and sorted in the vineyard. Whole cluster pressing preserved the fruit flavors with fresh acidity. Barrel fermentation occurred in 25% new French oak with native and cultured yeasts. Malolactic conversion ensured silky richness and a medium body.

This focused, elegant chardonnay features aromas of lemon, pearberry, and baking spices, complemented by flavors of pineapple, lemon curd, and a hint of butterscotch on the palate. Incredibly food-friendly, the Highland Chardonnay is a perfect match for white fish, poultry, and light pasta dishes.

APPELLATION:	Santa Lucia Highlands		
VINEYARDS:	Double L, McIntyre, Tondré, Roger Rose		
CLONES:	4, 15, 17, Hillside, RR, 76, 95, 96, 548		
SOIL:	Chualar & Arroyo Seco Loams (Granatic)		
CLIMATE:	Cool, Region I+ (UCD)		
COOPERAGE:	8 months in French Oak, 25% new		
ALCOHOL:	13.9%	pH:	3.17
ACIDITY:	7.10 g/l	RETAIL PRICE:	\$30. ⁰⁰
MALOLACTIC:	85%		