SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS

MORGAN

2025 Metallico Un-Oaked Chardonnay

PLACE

Located in the well-drained foothills above the Salinas Valley, the Santa Lucia Highlands appellation is California's most distinctive region for growing terroir-driven wines. Strong afternoon winds and coastal fog originating from nearby Monterey Bay flow through the AVA, resulting in one of the longest growing seasons in North America. This unique combination of abundant sunshine and truly cool climate creates wine with intense flavors and balanced acidity.

VINTAGE

The 2025 season opened with windy conditions during flowering, leading to below-average fruit set across the region. A temperate summer brought cooler-than-average days and warmer-than-usual nights, moderating ripening. Harvest began in mid-September – later than recent vintages, though historically on pace for the region. A mid-harvest rain event raised early concerns, but fair weather followed and fruit remained unaffected, with harvest concluding in October.

WINE

Metallico is chardonnay in its purest form, unadorned by oak. Select clones from top growers display expressive tropical aromas and minerality.

Upon arriving at the winery, the grapes were whole-cluster pressed. After pressing, the juice was cold tank fermented, retaining the essential bright fruit and mineral characters. The wine did not go through a secondary malolactic fermentation.

Metallico's aromatics are intense with lemon drop candy, green mango, and lemon peel. The palate has ripe fruit flavors of granny smith apple, citrus, and papaya. This wine encompasses a light-medium body with bright acidity and a long finish. It's a perfect accompaniment to seafood and lighter summertime fare.

APPELLATION:	Santa Lucia Highlands
VINEYARD:	Leavens, McIntyre, Playa Alta
CLONES:	Roger Rose, 15, 809, 17, 96, 76
SOIL:	Chualar & Arroyo Seco loams (granitic)
CLIMATE:	Very Cool, Region I (UCD)
COOPERAGE:	5 months in Stainless Steel

ALCOHOL:	13.5%	pH:	3.28
ACIDITY:	6.50 g/l	RETAIL PRICE:	$26.00
MALOLACTIC:	0%		

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