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Background

Winery: Liquid Farm

Country: US

Region: California – Santa Barbara

Description: In less than a decade, Liquid Farm has gone from the founder's longtime dream to one of the most acclaimed of California's Third Wave of wine producers. Winemaker James Sparks crafts chardonnay and pinot noir bottlings that merge an old-world sensibility of high-acid, low-alcohol, minimal-intervention wines with the unique vinous bounty of Santa Barbara's Santa Rita Hills AVA.

Wine Notes – 2018 Liquid Farm Golden Slope Chardonnay

Founder Jeff Nelson and winemaker James Sparks have positioned Liquid Farm as one of California's top producers of Burgundian varietals by crafting old-world style, unmanipulated, mineral-driven wines that faithfully reflect the terroir of the beautiful cool-climate Central Coast. The Golden Slope Chardonnay is a blend of grapes from a number of the Santa Rita Hills' most renowned sites and is inspired by the famed Cote D'Or of Burgundy, Chardonnay's ancestral home. This golden colored gem is crafted from whole-cluster-pressed grapes and aged primarily in neutral oak to retain freshness and acidity. Among the richest of the winery's Chardonnays, it features notes of almond, hazelnut, lime, honey and citrus, and has become a critical favorite.

Antonio Galloni
vinous
explore all things wine

93 Points

JEB DUNNUCK

94 Points

Technical Specifications

Varietal Composition:

100% Chardonnay

Vineyard Region:

Santa Rita Hills – Clos Pepe, Bentrack, Spear Vineyards, Kessler-Haak, La Rinconada, and Rita's Crown

Vineyard Characteristics:

Diatomaceous earth, sandy loam, calcareous shale, gravely and clay loams. 20 year old vines on average

Production Volume:

750cs

Wine-Making / Vinification:

Hand-harvested whole-cluster pressed grapes

Fermented (14-60 days using native yeast) and aged for 16 months in 20% 120-gallon new oak puncheon barrels/80% 60-gallon neutral oak barrels

2 yrs bottle aging, light filtration. 59ppm SO₂ / 4.1ppm free SO₂

Alcohol / Volume:

13.5%

Residual Sugar:

2.0 g/L

Acidity:

6.4 g/L

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The 2018 Chardonnay Golden Slope is creamy and inviting. Green pear, apricot and spice, along with the wine's soft contours and forward fruit give the Golden Slope tons of immediacy and pure appeal. Deep, open-knit and yet also wonderfully nuanced, the Golden Slope will be nearly impossible to resist on release. Vineyard sites are Clos Pepe, Bentrack, Spear, Kessler-Haak, La Rinconada and Rita's Crown. 10/21

93 points (Antoni Galloni)

JEB DUNNUCK

Aged 15 months in 15% new French oak, the 2018 Chardonnay Golden Slope ratchets up the richness and boasts a medium gold hue, awesome notes of caramelized orchard fruits, spicy wood, toasted bread, and almond paste. Playing in the medium to full-bodied side of the spectrum, it has juicy acidity, terrific purity, and a great finish. It's impressive today and will be impressive in 8-10 years as well. 8/4/21

94 points