



2018 Estate Chardonnay

McIntyre Estate Vineyard
Santa Lucia Highlands

Overview

Steve McIntyre is one of the most knowledgeable viticulturists in California. As owner/operator of Monterey Pacific, he and his team farm 12,000 acres in Monterey County and have planted or farmed nearly one quarter of the vineyards in the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA. The McIntyre Estate Vineyard lies in the “sweet spot” of this rolling, benchland region. It produces incredibly intense and complex Pinot Noirs and well-structured, concentrated Chardonnays. It was among the first properties in the Santa Lucia Highlands to be SIP (Sustainability In Practice) Certified.

Vineyard

While it is never easy to compensate for the whims of Mother Nature, this wine was undoubtedly enhanced by the work we did in the vineyard throughout the growing season. The vines are vertically shoot positioned (VSP) and the crop was thinned to a maximum of three tons per acre. Row orientation is north/south, which provides even sun exposure from morning and afternoon. Our farming practices are labor intensive, intelligent and sustainable.

Winemaking

At McIntyre our winemaking techniques are minimalistic. Our philosophy of “thoughtful but limited intervention” guarantees that the character and complexity of our fruit is highlighted in all of our wines. To ensure a more complete and compelling Chardonnay, we harvested fruit on multiple dates. The early picks contributed refreshing acids, green apple and ripe pear. The later provided viscosity, citrus and ripe tropical fruit. Primary and malolactic fermentations were managed naturally using the wild, indigenous yeast strains that thrive in our vineyards. This wine features Dijon clone 76.

Steve’s Tasting Notes

Great wines speak to both sides of your brain. They are cerebral yet artistic, rational yet hedonistic. Take our 2018 McIntyre Estate Vineyard Chardonnay. For the analytical left side, there is precision, structure and minerality. For the intuitive right side, there is texture, opulence and concentration. For both sides there are lush impressions of toast, crème brûlée, oak and grilled almonds. Great wine.

Vital Statistics

Composition	100% Chardonnay
Vineyard	McIntyre Estate Vineyard
AVA	Santa Lucia Highlands
TA	7.0 grams/100ml
PH	3.27
Alcohol	14.2%
Cases Produced	360
SRP	\$38

