



## *2012 Soberanes Chardonnay*

Santa Lucia Highlands' two most renowned growers, Gary Pisoni and Gary Francioni, have joined forces on an exciting new vineyard located just south of the celebrated Garys' Vineyard in the heart of the Santa Lucia Highlands. It is called Soberanes Vineyard. We at Bernardus are honored to be among the few wineries to receive both Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from this exciting new star of the Santa Lucia Highlands appellation.

We have chosen a block planted with two selections of the highly-regarded Wente clone of Chardonnay which is known for its small clusters of tiny grapes. This clone, along with the highest quality farming practices, provides us with a very intense wine exhibiting the finest quality of flavors and aromas.

On the nose we find scents of baked apple and pear, accented by notes of baking spices and crème brûlée. The palate is highly focused with concentrated flavors of candied citrus fruits, caramel, toasty oak and hints of mineral supported by a crisp, refreshing acidity.

**Picking date:** October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**Appellation:** Santa Lucia Highlands.

**Fermentation:** All our Chardonnays are fermented and aged in the Burgundian tradition. These grapes were hand picked and sorted for quality before being gently whole-cluster pressed and fermented using a variety of specially selected yeasts. We encourage our Chardonnays to undergo a complete malo-lactic fermentation which, along with hand stirring every two weeks, enhances the richness, complexity and ageability of the wine.

**Cooperage:** 100% French: Sirugue, Damy, Billon, Cadus and Dargaud & Jaegle.

**Bottling:**

August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
225 cs. (750 mls.)

Retail Price:  
\$40