



### 2012 Sierra Mar Chardonnay

Sierra Mar is a superb vineyard planted by the renowned grower Gary Francioni on a dramatic hilltop location at the southern end of the Santa Lucia Highlands. We at Bernardus are honored to be among the few to receive both Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from this super star vineyard.

We have chosen three from among the several clones of Chardonnay planted here: the celebrated Wente Clone and Dijon clones 95 and 96. As usual at Bernardus, we use only hand-picked and sorted grapes for our wines.

On the nose we find aromas of ripe apple and pear with notes of orange blossom and caramel. On the pallet we find intense flavors of ripe apple and candied orange peel accented by fresh, creamy butter, cinnamon and nutmeg. The finish is long and well-structured promising wonderful aging potential for this delicious wine.

**Picking dates:** September 27<sup>th</sup> and October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**Appellation:** Santa Lucia Highlands.

**Fermentation:** All our Chardonnays are fermented and aged in the Burgundian tradition. The grapes are hand picked and sorted for quality before being gently whole-cluster pressed and fermented using a special selection of yeasts. All our Chardonnays undergo a complete malo-lactic fermentation to enhance richness and complexity. In addition, each barrel has been hand stirred every two weeks until shortly before blending and bottling.

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

**Bottling:**  
August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013.  
406 cs. (750 mls.)

**Retail Price:**  
\$40

