

Santa Barbara: Present & Future

featuring Potek

by Antonio Galloni

2017 Chardonnay La Rinconada

The 2017 Chardonnay La Rinconada is absolutely impeccable in its balance. Bright acids that perk up orchard fruit, lemon confit and floral flavors. Classy and understated, the 2017 has a lot to offer. This pretty and supremely elegant Chardonnay shows just how finessed the Sta. Rita Hills can be. **(93 points)**

2017 Chardonnay Bien Nacido

Potek's 2017 Chardonnay Bien Nacido emerges from Block W, one of the original blocks planted in 1973, with own-rooted vines. Powerful and dense, with real textural depth, the 2017 is super expressive and also quite distinctive. This is an especially phenolic style, and yet there is plenty of underlying salinity to keep things bright and nicely focused. **(93+ points)**

2016 Grenache Demetria

The 2016 Grenache Demetria is a wine of real pedigree, nuance and complexity. The 100% whole clusters add striking aromatic complexity. Dried cherry, mint, licorice and star anise are all lifted in this deep, layered Grenache. Dave Potter gave the 2016 a whopping 60 days on the skins, which worked out beautifully. The 2016 is flat-out delicious. **(94 points)**

2016 Syrah Tierra Alta

The 2016 Syrah Tierra Alta is a bold and pungent. Black cherry, grilled herbs, iron, blood, smoke and game give the 2016 much of its wild, animal personality. Big, dark fruit, powerful tannins and broad shoulders add to an impression of pure unbridled power. The Tierra Alta is not exactly elegant, but it has tons of character. **(93 points)**

2016 Syrah Kimsey

The 2016 Syrah Kimsey is dark, powerful and massively tannic, as wines from this site always are. Blackberry jam, lavender, grilled herbs, menthol, licorice and lavender infuse this super-expressive Ballard Canyon Syrah with tons of character. **(93 points)**

2016 Syrah Mormann

The 2016 Syrah Mormann is an outrageously beautiful wine that oozes with character. Blood orange, rose petal, lavender, spice and a good dose of whole cluster savoriness from the 100% stems all run through a core of red cherry/pomegranate fruit. Stunning aromatics, deep, layered fruit and dazzling intensity make for a truly riveting, captivating Syrah. Don't miss it. **(95 points)**

