



Kendall-Jackson

A Grand Reserve bottling that captures the elegance of cool-climate Chardonnay, harmonizing lush fruit with oak polish and lees complexity.



Grand Reserve Chardonnay 2021

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Santa Barbara County, located along California's Central Coast, is celebrated for its **unusually cool, east-west running valleys** that channel Pacific breezes inland. This maritime influence extends the growing season, allowing Chardonnay grapes to develop with **balanced ripeness, bright acidity, and layered complexity**. The Santa Maria and Los Alamos Valleys, in particular, are known for their **calciferous soils**, which contribute distinct minerality to the wines.

For this Grand Reserve, Kendall-Jackson sources exclusively from its **estate vineyards**, all of which are Certified Sustainable. These vineyards are strategically planted on mountainsides, ridges, and benchlands, producing fruit of intensity and purity. The long hangtime of the grapes under cool coastal conditions ensures a Chardonnay that balances lush fruit expression with refreshing structure and terroir-driven nuance.

Winemaking

The 2021 Grand Reserve Chardonnay is made from **100% estate-grown Chardonnay**. The winemaking philosophy emphasizes both terroir expression and careful craftsmanship. Each lot from different vineyard sites is fermented separately, enabling precise blending later in the process.

The wine was aged **nine months in oak barrels**: 86% French (29% new) and 14% American (1% new). This judicious use of oak contributes subtle notes of vanilla and spice without overshadowing the fruit. The wine was also aged **sur lie**, with lees stirred twice monthly, enhancing texture and creating a creamy mouthfeel that balances the mineral-driven brightness. The inclusion of Dijon and Rued clones adds delicate floral nuances to the final blend, further elevating complexity.

Alcohol :14,60 %

Composition: 100% Chardonnay



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Brilliant pale gold with green-tinged highlights, vibrant and clear.
- **Aroma:** Lush tropical fruits such as pineapple and mango, layered with hints of citrus, florals, and a touch of vanilla and baking spice. A mineral edge reflects the calcareous soils.
- **Palate:** Generous yet refined, with ripe tropical fruit and stone fruit flavors interwoven with creamy lees texture. The palate is lifted by bright acidity and framed by subtle oak spice, finishing long, balanced, and mineral-driven.

Did you know?

Santa Barbara County's **east-west valleys** are unique in California; while most valleys run north-south, this orientation allows cool ocean air to funnel inland directly. This natural cooling effect makes the region one of the state's **most prized for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir**, yielding wines of freshness, precision, and depth. Kendall-Jackson was among the first large producers to fully embrace these cool-climate sites for premium production, long before they gained widespread acclaim.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Seared scallops with lemon butter:** The wine's creamy texture and citrus lift harmonize with the richness of scallops.
- **Roast chicken with herbs:** The layered fruit and spice complement the savory, aromatic flavors of roast poultry.
- **Lobster risotto:** The wine's creamy lees character mirrors the risotto's texture while tropical notes highlight the lobster's sweetness.
- **Triple cream brie:** The lush fruit and oak spice pair seamlessly with the cheese's buttery richness.

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 90 Points (2020)



One hundred percent barrel fermented, the 2020 Chardonnay Grand Reserve is characterized by floral aromatics of honeysuckle, salted pineapple, and lemon. The palate is rounded and flush, with sweet honeydew melon, baked apple, and baking spice.

Robert Parker (RP) : 90 Points (2019)



The 2019 Chardonnay Grand Reserve is scented of baked apples, pie crust, toast and beeswax with top notes of citrus. The palate is medium-bodied, fresh, rounded and savory, with appealingly ripe, honeyed fruit and a long, flavorful finish.



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