

## Deovlet, Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Chardonnay

- Single vineyard wine from historic Sta. Rita Hills vineyard
- One of the most complex and mineral driven Chardonnays from California
  - Only 72 cases produced

### The Producer

Ryan Deovlet is one of the most exciting new winemakers in the Central Coast. With each of his small-production Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays, Deovlet strives to give identity to the vineyard, a nod to the old world and a kiss of fruit. Like new producers in Burgundy, Deovlet partners with vineyards as if he were the estate owner, controlling the whole process from vine to bottle with passion, artistry, and intuition.

His inspiration to make wine came unexpectedly in 2004 during a college vacation in Hawaii, when he tasted fresh coffee from a local coffee plantation. Having grown up with a green thumb, he was struck with the desire to create a product from the land. He quickly decided to pursue wine and embarked on a 4-year exploration to learn everything he could about making it.

Deovlet sought to learn first hand from great winemakers and viticulturists, gaining apprenticeships with Stephen Dooley of Stephen Ross Wine Cellars, David Ramey at Red Car Wine Company, and Paul Hobbs of Viña Cobos in Mendoza, Argentina. Through this work he developed a vision for managing vine balance—versus vineyard yields—to achieve optimal phenolic ripeness. He also gained conviction about being impeccable in the cellar, doing things by hand, and not being dogmatic about vinification. Thorough in every detail, Deovlet next studied his customer, taking the certified sommelier exam.

Deovlet returned to California in 2008 with the aspiration to start his own label. While developing estate projects for Santa Barbara clients (including Refugio Ranch, where he is now winemaker), he landed a vineyard parcel of his own at La Encantada from Sta. Rita Hills winemaking legend, Richard Sanford. He quickly showed himself to be a true partner of the vineyard by working together on farming techniques and producing outstanding wines that give the vineyard identity. That auspicious beginning led Deovlet to develop enduring partnerships with other prime vineyards in the Central Coast.

Today Deovlet produces Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from great vineyards in the Central Coast including La Encantada, Sanford & Benedict, Solomon Hills. Each wine is produced in very small quantities (200 cases or less). His second vintage, 2009, earned more than 90 points from Parker.

### The Wine

Planted in 1973 by the pioneers of the Sta. Rita Hills, Richard Sanford and Michael Benedict, the vines for this Chardonnay are believed to be the oldest in Santa Barbara County. The site's mantle of hard, siliceous chert-gravel covers deep, well-drained soils, producing tiny, highly-concentrated berries. Deovlet showcases the fruit and this exceptional, historic vineyard through harvesting when grapes are perfectly ripe and using long cool fermentation inspired by Burgundian traditions. Paying tribute to Sanford and Benedict for their vision, Deovlet titles the wine "to the Pioneers."



**Region:** Central Coast

**Appellation:** Sta. Rita Hills

**Vineyard:** Sanford & Benedict

**Altitude:** 200-400'

**Soil:** Silica gravel and sandy loam

**Vine age:** Planted in 1973, oldest in Santa Barbara County

**Planting system:** Own-rooted, California sprawl

**Vine density:** 10' x 5'

**Yield:** Average 2-2.5/acre

**Harvest:** Among the first to harvest in respective vineyard

**Vinification:** Initiated in stainless steel and then transferred to wood to complete fermentation at cooler temperatures; partial malolactic

**Aging:** 18 months in barrel, 100% French oak, 0% new, 30% once-filled

**Production:** 72 cases

**Tasting Notes:** Tons of citrus and white flowers on the nose with a bright acidity and chalky minerality on the palate.

**Ratings:** Not yet rated