

## Deovlet, Chardonnay Santa Barbara County

- Outstanding example of the Santa Barbara appellation—juicy, fresh and balanced
  - Long aging gives exceptional dimension and longevity
  - From rising star winemaker of the Central Coast!

### 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

Ryan Deovlet's careful selection of vineyards, meticulous farming and French-inspired winemaking make this cuvee an outstanding example of the Santa Barbara appellation. Deovlet hand-selects fruit from his primary vineyards to deliver the verve of Sta. Rita Hills with fleshiness of Santa Maria Valley AVA. Cool fermentation heightens the aromatics, while long aging gives added dimension. With fewer than 200 cases produced, this small production gem will sell out quickly!



**Region:** Central Coast

**Appellation:** Santa Barbara County

**Vineyard:** Sanford & Benedict and Solomon Hills

**Altitude:** 200-500'

**Soil:** Mix of silica gravel, sand, and loam

**Varietal Blend:** 100% Chardonnay

**Vine age:** Roughly 13 years

**Yield:** Averages 2-2.5 tons/acre

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

**Vinification:** Clone 76: initiated in stainless steel, then transferred to barrel where it completes primary ferment at cool temperatures and undergoes partial malolactic. Clone 96: barrel-fermented with partial malolactic

**Aging:** 18 months in barrel, 100% French oak, 20% new

**Production:** ~ 150 cases

**Tasting Notes:** Fresh pineapple, citrus fruit, and juicy stone fruit, with a slight vanilla toasty wood character which makes this wine broad and rich, but with bright acidity to bring great length, finish, and vivacity.

**Ratings:** Not yet rated