

# Cycles GLADIATOR

Classic Wines For Classic Times™



## 2016 CHARDONNAY

When I think of Central Coast Chardonnay, I think of lush, fruit-driven wines that pack a considerable amount of flavor in every sip. And the beauty of working with the myriad selection of vineyards I get to work with on the Central Coast is that I can put together a wine that emphasizes any number of flavor profiles I'd like. For me, this means I can blend a wine that can pair with an amazing array of foods including meats, pasta, and popcorn.

2016 was a pretty awesome vintage for a number of reasons. But the one that made the most impact on the quality of this wine was the very cool temperatures we experienced towards the latter part of ripening season. We got to pick our Chardonnay at lower sugars and higher acids than we're used to. The result is a pretty powerful Chardonnay, perhaps the best in 10 years. Couple that with the fact that I think I'm starting to figure out the vineyards that I work with and the results are truly exciting.

The grapes were harvested with acid levels that you might find on those from Santa Barbara or the Sonoma Coast. Rich and racy. Once those parameters are in place, then the focus is on flavors and balance. I backed way off on the malolactic fermentation choosing only a small percentage to go through to protect the bright fruit flavors. I'm very happy with this wine. Here's to hoping you are too.

Really pretty aromatics of stone fruits like peach and apricots. There are notes of bosc pear and apples with a subtle hint of sexy toasted oak. The flavors are even more impressive with strong notes of green apples, tropical fruits, and marzipan. The rich mouthfeel as a result of extended lees aging adds a considerable amount of sweetness but the acid carries the day, suspending the flavors well into the finish. Pair with fettuccine alfredo, Atlantic Sole, and fried chicken!



Varietal:  
100% Chardonnay

Appellation:  
100% Central Coast

TA: 0.69 g/100ml

pH: 3.50

Alcohol: 13.5%

Oak regimen:  
85% Stainless Steel,  
15% French Barrels

### ABOUT THE WINEMAKER



Working on his passion for over 20 years, Adam LaZarre is one of California's most acclaimed winemakers, having won the LA Int'l Wine Competition a record 3 times, amongst numerous other accolades.

Cheers,

Adam LaZarre, Winemaker