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94 pts

Melville 2016 Syrah Estate Donna's

Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara County, Central Coast

Red wine from United States

Drinking window:

Melville's 2016 Syrah Estate Donna's is perfumed and savory, with the influence of the 100% whole clusters very much in the foreground, something that was much less the case when the wine was in barrel. Wild flowers, sage, mint, thyme and a host of blue/purplish berry fruit meld together effortlessly. All the elements are simply in the right place. This is another gorgeous wine from Melville.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: June 2018

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From Santa Barbara Dreamin'... Part One & Part Two (Sep 2018)

Melville

The 2016s are the first wines Chad Melville made at his family's estate after taking over from Greg Brewer. I thought the 2016s were promising when I tasted them from barrel last year. The bottled wines are every bit as impressive. Also tasted: NV Blanc de Noir Estate.

Grape/Blend

Syrah

Release price

\$46.00

Cases Produced (12 bottles/case)

584

Release Date

October 2018



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Grape/Blend

Syrah

Release price

\$36.00

Cases Produced (12 bottles/case)

2167

Release Date

October 2018

Melville 2016 Syrah Estate (Sta. Rita Hills)

Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara County, Central Coast

Red wine from United States

Drinking window:

The 2016 Syrah Estate (Sta. Rita Hills) is fresh, nuanced and distinctive. There is an element of freshness and vivacity to the 2016 that is incredibly appealing. Blueberry, lavender, violet, spice and mint notes are nicely lifted in this precise, strikingly beautiful Syrah from Melville. The 40% whole clusters are felt, but also nicely integrated within the wine's fabric.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: June 2018

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Grape/Blend

Pinot Noir

Release price

\$50.00

Cases Produced (12 bottles/case)

270

Release Date

October 2018

Melville 2016 Pinot Noir Estate Indigène

Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara County, Central Coast

Red wine from United States

Drinking window:

The 2016 Pinot Noir Estate Indigène is gorgeous. Fresh, aromatic and lifted, the Indigène is endowed with tremendous fruit purity and nuance. Red berry fruit, floral aromatics and silky tannins give this mid-weight Pinot undeniable allure. The 2016 was done with fully destemmed fruit. Drink it over the next handful of years.

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Grape/Blend

Pinot Noir

Release price

\$60.00

Cases Produced (12 bottles/case)

598

Release Date

January 2018

Melville 2016 Pinot Noir Estate Block M

Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara County, Central Coast

Red wine from United States

Drinking window: 2021 - 2028

The 2016 Pinot Noir Estate Block M is another impressive wine. Dense, powerful and also closed in itself, the Block M has the most overt density of any of the Melville 2016s. Readers will have to give the 2016 at least a few years to unwind. The 80% whole clusters are totally buried by the sheer intensity of the fruit. An underlying hard pan of clay constricts the vines, which along with the windswept hillside and tiny clusters yields a potent, naturally concentrated wine.

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Grape/Blend

Pinot Noir

Release price

\$60.00

Cases Produced (12 bottles/case)

246

Release Date

January 2018

Melville 2016 Pinot Noir Estate Terraces

Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara County, Central Coast

Red wine from United States

Drinking window:

The 2016 Pinot Noir Estate Terraces is marked by its broad shoulders and big, tannic personality. A bit imposing today, the 2016 is going to need at least a few years to come around. Intense saline notes add energy to this distinctly powerful, imposing Pinot. Translucent, expressive and also quite potent, the 2016 has a lot to offer. Exotic rosewater, sweet tobacco, orange peel and star anise add striking nuance throughout.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: June 2018



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Grape/Blend

Pinot Noir

Release price

\$50.00

Cases Produced (12 bottles/case)

899

Release Date

April 2018

Melville 2016 Pinot Noir Estate Sandy's

Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara County, Central Coast

Red wine from United States

Drinking window: 2019 - 2026

The 2016 Pinot Noir Estate Sandy's is impeccable. Gracious and lifted, as these wines tend to be, the Sandy's also has lovely beams of underlying tannin that give the wine its persistence and overall shape. Orange peel, cranberry, white pepper, mint and red berry are all beautifully lifted throughout. The 50% whole clusters add aromatic intensity without overpowering the wine. Simply put, the 2016 is a model of total elegance and finesse. Don't miss it.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: June 2018

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Grape/Blend

Pinot Noir

Release price

\$50.00

Cases Produced (12 bottles/case)

768

Release Date

April 2018

Melville 2016 Pinot Noir Estate Anna's Block

Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara County, Central Coast

Red wine from United States

Drinking window: 2020 - 2028

The 2016 Pinot Noir Estate Anna's Block is another wine that has turned out nicely. A bit more pliant and generous than most wines from this site, the Anna's is wonderfully expressive. The 60% whole clusters are not especially evident. Time in barrel have softened some of the more masculine contours that were present in barrel.

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Grape/Blend

Chardonnay

Release price

Not Available

Melville 2016 Chardonnay Estate (Sta. Rita Hills)

Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara County, Central Coast

White wine from United States

Drinking window: 2019 - 2023

The 2016 Chardonnay Estate (Sta. Rita Hills) is a gorgeous wine built on freshness and cut. Expressive floral notes add shades of nuance to this super-expressive, complex Chardonnay from Melville. The 2016 is the first vintage made by Chad Melville, and it shows a preference towards a less reductive style that characterized the wines during Greg Brewer's tenure.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: June 2018



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Grape/Blend

Chardonnay

Release price

\$32.00

Cases Produced (12 bottles/case)

2928

Release Date

January 2018

Melville 2015 Chardonnay Estate (Sta. Rita Hills)

Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara County, Central Coast

White wine from United States

Drinking window: 2018 - 2022

The 2015 Chardonnay Estate (Sta. Rita Hills) has developed a good bit of flavor complexity over the last year. Orchard fruit, yellow flowers, chamomile and lightly honeyed notes all develop in the glass. The 2015 has picked an element of reduction that was not present in the wine a year ago. That is more an observation rather than a critique, but also a reminder of the style Greg Brewer favored when he was the winemaker here.

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Grape/Blend

Chardonnay

Release price

\$40.00

Cases Produced (12 bottles/case)

440

Release Date

April 2018

Melville 2017 Chardonnay Estate Inox

Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara County, Central Coast

White wine from United States

Drinking window:

The 2017 Chardonnay Estate Inox is terrific. Fresh, vibrant and nuanced, the 2017 is absolutely delicious. Lemon peel, white flowers, mint, white pepper and bright saline notes all punctuate this super-expressive Chardonnay from Melville.

Antonio Galloni. Tasting date: June 2018

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