



## 2025 SIERRA MAR VINEYARD VIOGNIER

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### SIERRA MAR VINEYARD

Sierra Mar is the southernmost site that our family owns and manages. It is our highest in elevation at up to 1,100 feet above sea level. In 2007, Gary Franscioni painstakingly planted it, and drilled a well which pumps water three miles up the hillsides to make irrigation possible. The heavily sloped terrain and thin soils encourage deep root systems and drainage. Its elevation often places Sierra Mar around the fogline, adding to its diversity and mystique. This slightly warmer site also experiences heavy winds in the afternoon along with cooler nights help retain natural acidity.

### WINEMAKER NOTES

Planted at one of Sierra Mar's highest elevations, this tiny Viognier block produces a wine of remarkable perfume and richness. For the 2025, fruit from our original vines was blended with a younger parcel, combining the depth and concentration of the older planting with added brightness and freshness. Generous yet lifted, it shows perfumed stone fruit, jasmine, and orange cream, with tea leaf, tarragon, and spice carrying through the long finish.

**Winemaker:** Scott Shapley

**Appellation:** Santa Lucia Highlands

**Farming:** Sustainable (SIP Certified)

**Clones:** Alban

**Harvest:** October 8, 2025

**Oak:** Neutral French oak

**Aging:** 10 months in barrel

**Alcohol:** 14.8%

**Acid:** TBD

**2025: (92 - 94) pts, Jeb Dunnuck**

**2024: Not rated**

**2023: 92 pts, Antonio Galloni's Vinous**

**2022: 93 pts, Lisa Perrotti-Brown, MW**

**2021: 92 pts, Antonio Galloni's Vinous**

32070 River Rd, Santa Lucia Highlands, CA 93960

contact@roarwines.com (800) 540-ROAR www.roarwines.com



## SIERRA MAR VINEYARD VIOGNIER

### TECH NOTE ARCHIVE

| Vintage | Harvest  | Ageing                          | Alc.  | Clones              | pH   | Growing Season                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------|----------|---------------------------------|-------|---------------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2024    | 9/27/24  | 10 months in neutral French oak | 14.8% | Clone 5,<br>Clone 1 | 3.68 | Small berries with thick skins promoted wines with structure and deep character. Harvest unfolded in two phases with early lots bringing vibrant, juicy fruit and bright natural acidity, while later picks developed greater concentration and richer textures.                                       |
| 2023    | 10/16/23 | 10 months in neutral French oak | 14.8% | Clone 5,<br>Clone 1 | 3.72 | Generous winter rains replenished vines. Budbreak, bloom, and veraison occurred 2 weeks later than average. Cool and mild spring and summer. Long hangtime with our latest harvest since 1999.                                                                                                         |
| 2022    | 9/9/22   | 11 months in neutral French oak | 14.6% | Clone 5,<br>Clone 1 | 3.75 | Low yields. Warm spring and summer punctuated by a labor day heat wave. Earlier than average harvest was aided by quicker ripening clusters due to low yields.                                                                                                                                         |
| 2021    | 10/8/21  | 10 months in neutral French oak | 14.7% | Clone 5,<br>Clone 1 | 3.65 | Fruit was dropped early in 2020, so vines entered the vintage with little stress. Low rainfall with growing milestones tracking 2-3 weeks behind. Very even temperatures and balanced wines.                                                                                                           |
| 2020    | 9/3/20   | 8 months in neutral French oak  | 14.7% | Clone 5,<br>Clone 1 | 3.7  | What began as a healthy crop under temperate conditions changed late in the season, when wildfires ultimately resulted in the loss of the red wine vintage. For our whites, ultra-light pressing minimized skin contact and preserved the purity of the juice, resulting in fresh, high-quality wines. |
| 2019    | 9/28/19  | 10 months in neutral French oak | 14.5% | Clone 5,<br>Clone 1 | 3.68 | Cool temperatures and heavier-than-average fog cover, conditions that encouraged slow, even ripening. A late rise in warmth brought the vines into perfect balance for harvest. Elegant and polished wines.                                                                                            |
| 2018    | 9/29/18  | 10 months in neutral French oak | 14.5% | Clone 5,<br>Clone 1 | 3.85 | Cool spring, slightly less than average rainfall. Perfect fruit set, warm days and cool nights during the summer. A cool fall allowed for a classic harvest with optimal conditions.                                                                                                                   |
| 2017    | 9/22/17  | 10 months in neutral French oak | 14.5% | Clone 5,<br>Clone 1 | 3.66 | Above average. winter and spring rain. Dry and cool summer with cool nights. A significant labor day heat wave accelerated harvest. Active canopy management and picking decisions preserved freshness.                                                                                                |
| 2016    | 9/20/17  | 10 months in neutral French oak | 14.9% | Clone 5,<br>Clone 1 | 3.71 | First non-drought year since 2012. Extended harvest time frame with clean and ripe fruit.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |