

## DIERBERG

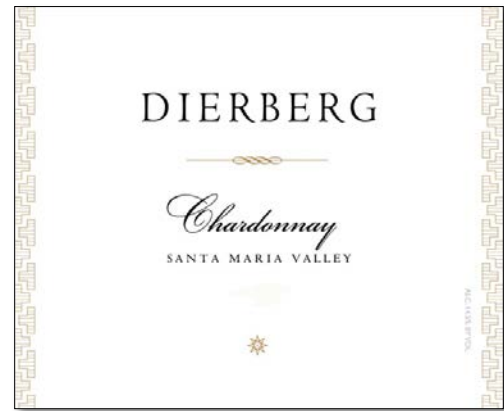
Jim and Mary Dierberg are no newcomers to wine. Since 1974, they've owned one of America's oldest wineries, Hermannhof, located in their home state of Missouri. Developing an initial passion for wine during their early trips to Germany during the 1960s, the couple discovered that an old winery in Hermann, Missouri - founded in 1852 - was for sale, and they bought it.



The wines at Hermannhof are good, but the Missouri climate is not conducive to growing the European varietals that have made France and California famous, and so, it was only a matter of time before the couple sought a new winemaking perspective. In 1996, they purchased Star Lane. After consultation with renowned Central Coast grower Dale Hampton and soil scientist Paul Skinner, the Dierbergs realized that the land was best suited to growing Cabernet and its related varietals.

Starting with 100 acres in 1996, they later bought a cooler vineyard site better suited to Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, a bit farther north in Santa Maria. In January of 2004 they added a new property in the Santa Rita Hills, also suitable for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, and called these two vineyards, fittingly, Dierberg. Practicing organic viticulture, the winemaking couple are constructing their dream winery on the Star Lane property. It's dug into the hillside for efficient use of energy and will host some 26,000 square feet of caves for barrel aging.

## CHARDONNAY



**Varietal/Blend:** 100% Chardonnay

**Farming:** sustainable:

**Soil:** alluvial deposits, Sandy Loam

**Vine Age:** 20 years

**Harvest Technique:** fruit is harvested by soil type, across several different blocks, rather than by discreet clonal selections

**Fermentation:** in a mix of new and used French oak

**Malolactic:** less than 10 percent of the wine goes through secondary (malolactic) fermentation

**Aging:** 33% new French oak for 16 months / aged in larger, 400 liter barrels that impart less oak influence than typical barrels

**Alcohol:** 14.5%

**Yeast:** selected

**Fined:** none

**Filtered:** light

**Production #s:**

Dierberg Vineyard is situated atop a sandy loam mesa above the South Bank of the Santa Maria River. The vineyard, located in the near-extreme Western part of the Santa Maria Valley AVA, is one of the coolest vineyards in the appellation. This attribute, combined with the sandy, marine-based soils, creates Chardonnays with high acidity. Following harvest we use a mix of time-tested techniques from Burgundy in combination with less traditional techniques more suited to the unique characteristics of the vineyard. The result is a lush, mouth-filling Chardonnay balanced by crisp acidity.

**Country:** California

**Region:** Santa Ynez

**Sub Region:** Santa Maria Valley

**Vineyard:**

**Vineyard Size:**