

# Austin Hope

## 2023 CELLAR SELECT VERDELHO

*In the words of Austin Hope, "Experimentation is how we chase perfection" —a mantra that is embodied by our Cellar Select wines. These ultra-limited releases are born of Austin's longtime relationships with top local providers giving us access to the finest blocks at preferred vineyards. Many of these wines originate from small experimental batches that yield some of our most creative, compelling and luxurious offerings, all collected under the banner of Austin Hope Cellar Select.*

### HARVEST NOTES

The 2023 growing season was cooler and wetter than recent years. Near-record rainfall filled soil profiles while a cooler spring and summer facilitated good vine growth but slowed berry and cluster development. The result was a later harvest. Fortunately, the autumn weather was warm and consistent which helped to fully mature berries. The result was a balanced crop with ripe fruit, high tannins and anthocyanins, all indicators of high quality.

### VINEYARD NOTES

This SIP (Sustainable in Practice) Certified Verdelho vineyard lies in the heart of the Santa Ynez Valley and within the Los Olivos AVA. Soils here are shaly loam and fine gravelly sand, which help keep this sometime vigorous vine balanced due to lower water retention. The Santa Ynez region has a near-perfect temperature during the growing season; warm but not hot. Early morning marine layers are common in the spring and early summer, which helps the vines to grow and the grape clusters to size. The warm days of summer encourage even ripening of the fruit.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

After harvest, the Verdelho grapes were whole-cluster pressed into stainless steel tanks for settling. The juice was then racked off its heavy lees into fresh stainless-steel tanks for fermentation. Throughout the fermentation process, the wine was tasted daily to monitor its acidity, sugar levels, and alcohol content. Once the wine reached the perfect balance of these elements, fermentation was halted to preserve any residual sugar, ensuring the final wine has a harmonious sweetness without excess alcohol. The wine remained in the stainless vessels for the entirety of aging, with a small portion aged sur lie. The final blend was assembled and bottled in July of 2024.

### TASTING NOTES

A delightful white wine that possess aromas of honeydew, pineapple and white flower. On the palate, luscious tropical notes are complimented by a splash of citrus. The beautiful finish is balanced with minerality and fresh acidity to lighten the hint of sweetness that lingers throughout.

### TECHNICAL NOTES

VARIETAL(S): 100% Verdelho

AVA: Los Olivos District

HARVEST DATE: 9/5/2023

OAK PROGRAM: 100% Stainless Steel

AGING: 10 Months

TOTAL ACIDITY: 0.70 g tartaric/100mL

pH: 3.33

ALCOHOL: 12.5%

## CELLAR SELECT SERIES

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