



THERE'S A NEW BREED OF CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY. HERE ARE 10 BOTTLES THAT PROVE IT.

BY SARA L. SCHNEIDER ON MARCH 16, 2020

California's top wine producers are turning out bottles of the country's favorite white that are radically different from the over-oaked, butter bombs of the past. It's about time.

alma rosa

2017 EL JABALI CHARDONNAY, STA. RITA HILLS

This well-balanced version from Alma Rosa in Santa Barbara County has a rich mouthfeel, to be sure. But that's offset by bright minerality and acidity (accentuated by being made partly in stainless steel and partly in wood, with only partial malolactic fermentation allowed). White blossom aromas and exotic citrus float over focused pear flavors and hints of tropical fruit. (\$45)