



# DAKÉL

2019 CHARDONNAY

*Viñedo Maricerro*

ITATA VALLEY • CHILE

*In the Chilean dialect Mapuche, DAKÉL means “to woo” or “to seduce.” DAKÉL was at work when, after more than 25 years of exploring winegrowing sites in Chile, Don Hartford, Randy Ullom and Andrés Sánchez couldn’t help but be drawn to the cool, marine-influenced hillsides of the Itata Valley. This historic winegrowing region, located in the southern tail of the country’s narrow coastline, is now home to DAKÉL – the trio’s commitment to producing site-reflective Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from Chile. “There’s a lot of real passion to elevate Chile, without losing the identity.” –Andrés Sánchez, Winemaker*

## MARRICERO VINEYARD

Planted to Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, *Viñedo Maricerro* or Maricerro Vineyard lies in hills of the Cordillera de la Costa mountains – a gently receding, older range juxtaposed against the younger Andes. The name Maricerro pays homage to the nearby Pacific (mar means sea in Spanish) and the Andes Mountains (cerro translates to hill), which serve as a backdrop to the nearly 30 acres of hand-cultivated Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes.

## VINTAGE NOTES

A frigid winter and scarce rainfall delayed budding and growth in the vineyard during the 2019 vintage. The same conditions and the vineyard’s proximity to Pacific breezes, however, helped to generate protection against spring frosts. The weather turned ideal throughout the growth and maturation stages in late spring and summer. Abundant sunshine and continuous sea breezes delivered the perfect equipoise to ensure freshness and purity of the fruit. Bone-chilling nights during the harvest helped to elevate the mineral, quartz-like expression of DAKÉL’s wines.

## WINE NOTES

At harvest, the grapes are hand-picked and placed into small boxes. In the winery, they are pressed as whole clusters to minimize skin contact time and to allow for a smoother, less phenolic finish. The juice is gravity-racked into medium toast barrels for 100% malolactic fermentation and aged for 12 months in 10% new French oak.

The 2019 Chardonnay expresses delicate aromas of apple, citrus blossom and crème brûlée. On the palate, the creaminess is balanced by an exuberant minerality and freshness that creates a perfect tension in this wine. The luxurious texture is complemented by flavors of honeydew melon, star fruit and a persistent saline finish that reflects the vineyard’s proximity to the sea.

### COMPOSITION

100% Chardonnay

### ALCOHOL

14.5%

### WINEMAKING TEAM

Andres Sanchez, Randy Ullom, Don Hartford

### PRODUCTION

1,402 bottles

**92 POINTS** - Tim Atkin, *TimAtkin.com*, April 2021

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