

The Monte Xanic Estate

Founded: 1987 by Hans Backoff and a group of 4 friends. It is heralded as the first boutique winery in Mexico.

Winery Location: The winery is located in Valle de Guadalupe near its northern end, abutting the steep slopes found on the north side of the valley.

Vineyard Details: The estate has vineyards at the winery proper as well as vineyard sites in other sections of Valle de Guadalupe, and significant holdings in Valle de Santos Tomas and Valle die Ojos Negros. Elevations vary from 900 ft in Valle de Guadalupe to over 1,800 in Valle de Ojos Negros. Soils are a mixture of Granite, clay and decomposed sandstone. (Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Pinot Noir, Petit Verdot, Merlot, Malbec, Syrah, and Grenache)

Notes:

- Many attribute the move by Monte Xanic to make wine from its own grapes (and their subsequent success) to the trend in Valle de Guadalupe for small farmers to make wine from their small parcels of estate owned grapes.
- With a large quantity of land under vine in all of the major wine growing valleys of the region, they are by far the most prolific of the boutique wineries in the region.
- Their vineyard sites are farmed organic and their winery operates as a model of modern eco-friendly design.
- The "X" in Xanic is pronounced like a "sh", so Xanic sounds like "shan-eeek". Xanic is the name of the white flower that is one of the first to bloom in spring in Valle de Guadalupe. When the spring rains are just right, the mountainside behind the winery is cloaked in their blooms.

Total production: 18 wines, 100,000 cases



2023 Calixa Chardonnay - Monte Xanic

Tasting Notes and Drinking Window: Somehow this wine, which is considered part of their entry level Calixa line just keeps getting better and better. Much of this has to do with the fruit coming from their organically farmed vineyards in Valle de Ojos Negros where they are managing to get perfect ripeness of fruit while maintaining delightful crisp acidity. Once a "comfort" wine that was built in a rounded, accessible and entry style, the 2023 vintage of this Chardonnay brings the Calixa line into the Majors. Sharper angularity, more clarity of voice on the nose and in the mouth, this wine is a clear indication of where the estate is going. Bravo.

Drinking window: Upon release - 4 years

Vintage:
2023

Blend:
100% Chardonnay

Producer:
Monte Xanic

Winemaker:
Oscar Gaona, Mexican - lives in Valle de Guadalupe

Vineyards:
Granite and clay mix

Aging:
Fermented and aged in stainless steel tanks

Farming:
Sustainable

Alcohol:
12.4%