



WINE CREEK RANCH | 2020

Alder Grove Sauvignon Blanc

DRY CREEK VALLEY

As part of our commitment to protecting native spawning Steelhead trout and coho salmon, a grove of alder trees at Wine Creek Ranch provides shaded habitat. The trees' deep roots nourish the soil where the primary Sauvignon Blanc plantings for this wine grows. The label features an alder catskin, the tree's flower that blossoms at the same time as the grape berries form.

“For this vintage we fermented and aged 80% in barrels of different sizes, and 20% stainless steel, but unlike our Fig Tree and Queue Collection bottlings only French oak was used.”

WINEMAKER HUGH CHAPPELLE

96.5% CCOF CERTIFIED ESTATE VINEYARD

► The 110-acre Wine Creek Ranch is home to 59 acres of vineyards that surround our winery and tasting room, including just over 21 acres of Sauvignon Blanc. The Mediterranean climate and well-drained soils are ideal for Sauvignon Blanc, which develop a beautiful expression of our cool microclimate in Dry Creek Valley.

VINTAGE

► The first of our recent “drought” vintages, signified by unusually low winter rainfall which impacted all aspects of vine growth in the spring and summer. Vineyard blocks with more shallow soils were significantly down in yield, while the others on deeper, gravelly benches came in close to historical averages. Due to an unusually early start to the growing season, harvest began in late August and all of our key blocks were into the winery by early September.

WINEMAKING

► Phased picking at various maturity levels occurred across a 2 1/2-week period. We also included 25% Semillon from our home estate of Wine Creek Ranch (21.5%) and the locally sourced Rued vineyard (3.5%) which happens to be 50+ years old. The Semillon broadens mouth-feel, adding layers of richness and softening the acidity, all the while adding a complex honey/beeswax character to the aromatics. No malolactic fermentation.

TASTING NOTES

► The wine is pale straw in color and day bright. The nose is filled with white rose, walnut, almond skin, and apricot pit. In the mouth, this Sauvignon blanc really delivers with flavors of Apricot, Star Fruit, and bitter herbs. Further along comes minerality reminiscent of wet river rock.

► The wine is all at once rich and nutty but also refreshing due to the ruffling acidity. Kind of a paradox that begs for a nice wedge of French cheese. The finish is substantial with flavors of crunchy Asian pears and a hint of bitter arugula.

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

► 75% Sauvignon Blanc, 25% Semillon

HARVEST DATES

► August 25 - September 12, 2020

pH | TA

► 3.09 pH | TA 0.69

ALCOHOL

► 13.7%

AGING

► 7mo French oak (20% new)

BOTTLED

► May 5, 2021

PRODUCTION

► 747 Cases

PRICE

► \$30

