RIVERBENCH

2012 BLANC DE NOIRS

Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	*100% Pinot Noir, Méthode Champenoise*
HARVEST	*August 24, 2012*
DOSAGE	*0.6 g/l*
DISGORGEMENT	*December 2013*
ACIDITY	*0.88 g/100ml*
PH	*3.09*
PRODUCTION	*332 cases*
PRICE	*$45*

91 Wine Enthusiast
August 2015

91 Terroirist.com
January 2016

WINEMAKERS NOTES

Sparkling wine made with Chardonnay is loaded with bright citrus and subtle apple notes. Sparkling wine made with Pinot Noir, however, is deep, complex, and suitable for the most elegant occasions. This lovely wine gives a nod to the women who made wines that sparkle what they are today: the Widow Clicquot, Lilly Bollinger, and Jeanne-Alexandrine Pommery, to name a few. These women of Champagne jumped right into making an extremely temperamental and difficult type of wine, but still ended the day on a high note with a bottle of the best bubbles. This vintage is full of deep rich tones of pear mixed with a hint of tangerine and orange zest. It's clean and refreshing with zippy acidity and triple crème brie on the finish. And like those famous ladies, this elegant and refined wine is one that is all about making a statement.

2012 HARVEST

The wines themselves experienced a natural cold soak at 50 degrees and fermentation began on its own. The wines never got about ninety degrees during fermentation, and barrel temperatures never exceeded the mid 70's. Small berry size, slightly more hen and chicks than average. The weather cooperated this season and the resulting grapes looked and tasted great. We had average yields and the long hang time brought great color and phenolics to the Pinot Noir. These same growing conditions and hang time allowed for different Chardonnay wines to be produced. We had the ability to make multiple harvests in the Chardonnay, capturing progressive flavors and distinct wines. Vintage reds feature 3-5 rack and returns which pulls out skin tannin. Performed from 18 to 9 brix, this process makes the wine more ageable and gives it a more complex mid palate.

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