



RIVERBENCH



2014 RESERVE BLANC DE BLANCS

Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Chardonnay, Méthode Champenoise
HARVEST	August 9, 2014
TIRAGE	July 16, 2016
DOSAGE	None
DISGORGEMENT	December 12, 2018
ABV	12.4%
ACIDITY	0.99 g/100ml
PH	3.16
PRODUCTION	21 cases
PRICE	\$125

WINEMAKERS NOTES

Too often, the day to day monotony of routine can stifle inspiration. I visited a certain famous Champagne maker on a once in a lifetime scheduled visit years ago, and unfortunately had caught a virus and lost my voice. He offered the following remedy: mix egg yolks with champagne and drink it down. "Voilà, you shall be cured!" This particular Champagne maker has provided more than just health tips; he has inspired my palate. While we can never copy exactly his wines here in Santa Maria, we can certainly learn from him and put our own touch on his style. Therefore, in 2014, Clarissa and I set out to make our own version of a more oxidized and layered sparkling wine, with deep roasted hazelnut, marzipan and a light cloud of whipped cream. Baked apples on the finish round out a truly delectable sparkling wine with extended tirage, and deep red rose petal aromas add an element of sensuality. This, friends, is a special bottle, one that we hope will yield to sighs of satisfaction, special moments, and of course, inspiration.

— Laura Booras, General Manager

2014 HARVEST

Vintage 2014 started off on schedule historically at bud break. The atypical two weeks of 80 degree weather in March and April accelerated things in the vineyard, putting us several weeks ahead of schedule. The warm weather pattern continued each month through bloom and veraison. When all was said and done, we were 18 days ahead of historical harvest dates, the earliest in Santa Barbara County history. Quantity was down for Chardonnay, and average for Pinot Noir. Our Pinot Noir exhibited beautiful small berries which is always a winemakers delight. Harvest was fairly compact in duration and was completed without a hitch. Flavor profiles are beautiful and concentration and color in the finished wines are excellent. 2014 is looking to be as good a vintage as 2012 in Santa Maria Valley, perhaps even better. Time will tell.

