



RIVERBENCH



2016 BLANC DE NOIRS

Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Méthode Champenoise
HARVEST	August 23, 2016
TIRAGE	March 9, 2018
DISGORGEMENT	August 8, 20; 2019
ABV	12.5%
ACIDITY	0.78 g/100ml
PH	3.3
PRODUCTION	180 cases
PRICE	\$48

91 Wine Enthusiast
January 2020

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.

2016 HARVEST

The 2016 vintage was a return to our historical cool spring and moderate summer temperatures. The grapes for sparkling wine came in starting August 9th. Pinot Noir began trickling in mid-August. The majority of the ranch ripened in mid-September and the Chardonnay came in the first two weeks of October, finishing October 14th. Balanced Flavors and physiological ripeness occurred at higher Brix than we have had for the last several vintages. The cooler temperatures allowed for longer hang time. Quality and character for Vintage 2016 is beautiful. Malolactic fermentations occurred simultaneously with primary fermentations. The very cold winter has delayed the completion of both primary and secondary fermentations. Our winter bottling was delayed to allow the wines to complete fermentations. Following harvest we welcomed an abundance of much needed rain which should be favorable to the coming 2017 harvest.

