



RIVERBENCH



2019 BLANC DE NOIRS

Estate Grown & Bottled, Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Méthode Champenoise
HARVEST	September 12, 2019
TIRAGE	September 8, 2020
DISGORGEMENT	June 2022
ABV	12.5%
ACIDITY	0.66 g/100mL
PH	3.32
PRODUCTION	585 cases
PRICE	\$52

WINEMAKER'S 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.

2019 HARVEST

The old mantra of "slow and steady" reverberated across the 2019 vintage which started with abundant winter precipitation followed by a classically cool summer. The rains we received over winter were 5" above normal, priming our vines for an auspicious budburst in mid-March. Warm spring temperatures accelerated rapid flowering and therefore consistent fruit set, the like of which we had not seen in years. Unusual May showers gave our vineyard crew a formidable challenge of thwarting powdery mildew and botrytis on the vines. We are happy to say they rose to the occasion and kept our fruit some of the cleanest in years despite the late rain and foggy summer to follow. The first grapes for our sparkling wine, the Pinot Meunier, came into the winery on the first of September, a little later than usual. The rest of our still wine grapes followed suit and by the start of October, 95% of the ranch was harvested. The Pinot Noir clones exhibited dark color and rich extraction from the lower-than-expected yields. The real star of 2019 however, was our 15 acres of old vine Chardonnay. The clusters verged on perfection with clean, balanced, concentrated fruit. The cool growing season showcased primary notes of granny smith apple and riverbank minerality that will continue to develop in bottle "slow and steady" long into the future.

