



RIVERBENCH



2020 BLANC DE BLANCS

Estate Grown & Bottled, Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Chardonnay, Méthode Champenoise
HARVEST	September 1, 2020
TIRAGE	September 7, 2021
DISGORGEMENT	June 2023
ABV	12.1%
ACIDITY	0.75 g/100mL
PH	3.3
PRODUCTION	400 cases
PRICE	\$52

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

We started experimenting with sparkling wine in 2008, and have been enjoying the results ever since! This devilish little wine might just trick you into thinking you're enjoying a French Champagne with its buttery and yeasty brioche finish. Pretty golden apple flavors meld with a hint of citrus as this classic wine evolves in the glass. Try it with a hunk of Langres cheese, a smoked salmon tartine, or the best pairing yet: fried chicken. Because bubbles make it all just a little more fun.

2020 HARVEST

Amidst high tensions in the weather and the world at large, the 2020 vintage ushered in high quality and clean fruit reminiscent of Santa Maria's celebrated cool climate. The year began with a dry winter that dribbled out less than half the usual rainfall and incited an early budburst. Hearty shoots managed to survive the windy spring and the nighttime frost alarms. Summer started out quiet and cool until August when high temperatures and humidity whipped up spectacular lightning shows and a few hefty downpours, testing our fungal-resistant pruning practices. When the turbulent storms subsided, they were replaced by 10 days of smoky haze as major fires broke out to the north and the south. By the grace of our valley topography, our vines were buffered by the worst of the smoke and flames with no taint detected on our early grape pulls. Harvest commenced with clean picks of sparkling Pinot Meunier on August 20th. Timing was steady and calculated. Safe from the challenges of weather, smoke, and global pandemics, the grapes in the winery unfolded elegantly. Our Pinot Noirs show incredible color with particularly luscious tannins from this year's small berries while the Chardonnays will age well into the future with bright acids and popping citrus aromas. While challenging, 2020's adversities built wines with character, concentration, and complexity that gave us cause to celebrate.

