



RIVERBENCH



2018 EXTRA BRUT

Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Chardonnay, Méthode Champenoise
HARVEST	September 20; 2018
DOSAGE	2%
ACIDITY	0.7 g/100ml
PH	3.51
ALCOHOL	11.9%
BOTTLED	July 25, 2019
PRODUCTION	419 cases
PRICE	\$46

WINEMAKERS NOTES

When it comes to sparkling wines, you may not automatically think “sweet.” In fact, most are made in the dry style, but we’re here to let you in on a little secret: slightly sweet sparkling wine, called Demi-Sec, is one of the wine universe’s special treats. You won’t find any heavy, cloying syrup here; in truth you may not even notice its subtle sweet flavors. This wine is all lightness and effervescence. Think freshly whipped cream, some white peach, or a fluffy vanilla angel food cake. Its bright citrus and white tea flavors are mellowed with scents of spring flowers and toasted bread. Enjoy this austere wine with desserts like almond cake or panna cotta, or serve it with a cheese course.

2018 HARVEST

The 2018 vintage returned us to our historical average for bud break and rainfall, followed by a short but significant frost season. We saw some of the lowest winter temperatures in years and had nearly two weeks of sprinklers running to protect the young shoot growth. The cool weather elongated the flowering season and resulted in variable ripening and berry uniformity across varieties and clones. Classically, “May Grey” led to “June Gloom” and though there were many complaints from the locals, our winemaker, Clarissa Nagy, was happy for the return of our marine layer. Cool days and even cooler nights allowed for moderate respiration during the day and minimal to no respiration at night. Translation: high acids and great ageability. Our first grapes for sparkling were harvested the latter half of August and first of September, which felt late in comparison to the past three years. The oddity this year was a very cool September and October, which greatly extended the season to get the final grapes ripe. The overall result was higher-than-expected yields with fruit of exceptional quality. The combination is rare and was well received. Color, concentration and phenolic ripeness were at a maximum. The intense aromas and flavors from 2018 will make this vintage one to lay down for years to come.

