



RIVERBENCH



2019 EXTRA BRUT

Estate Grown & Bottled, Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Chardonnay, Méthode Champenoise
HARVEST	September 18, 2019
TIRAGE	August 14, 2020
DOSAGE	3.0 g/L
DISGORGEMENT	October 2022
ABV	12.6%
ACIDITY	0.66 g/100mL
PH	3.28
PRODUCTION	490 cases
PRICE	\$48

WINEMAKER'S 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 Extra Brut, 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.

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.

