



RIVERBENCH



2019 CORK JUMPER CUVÉE

Estate Grown & Bottled, Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	<i>43% Pinot Meunier, 30% Pinot Noir, 27% Chardonnay, Méthode Champenoise</i>
HARVEST	<i>September 2, 2019</i>
TIRAGE	<i>September 7, 2020</i>
DISGORGEMENT	<i>March 2022</i>
ABV	<i>12.5%</i>
ACIDITY	<i>0.67 g/100mL</i>
PH	<i>3.16</i>
PRODUCTION	<i>420 cases</i>
PRICE	<i>\$56</i>

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

There is something magical in the power of three. We live on the third rock from the sun. Olympic medals are awarded in gold, silver and bronze. Art students learn the rule of thirds while in geometry, the triangle is the most stable shape. Indeed, almost anywhere you look, the pattern of three emerges as something special, natural, complete. We found that same magic in our Cork Jumper Cuvée, a sweet-spot blend of equal parts Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. This sparkling wine captures the best of all three traditional Champagne varieties with brilliant gold coloring and balanced dosage. Lifting aromas of dried pineapple, peach blossom, and lemon curd mellow into subtler notes of buttery shortbread, fennel and sandalwood on the palate. Perfectly petite bubbles leave a lovely impression of richness that carries through a soft lingering finish. Luxuriate in the golden triangle of this crowd-pleasing sparkler, pour it as an aperitif with friends or treat yourself to a pairing with white cheddar popcorn and a movie.

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.

