

2023 “Concrete Cuvée” Chenin Blanc, Clarksburg



History

We have long been fans of Chenin Blanc from the Loire Valley, and over the years have searched for local Chenin Blanc grapes to make a dry wine from this classic varietal. We discovered an ideal vineyard in Clarksburg California, home to the vast majority of Chenin Blanc grapes grown in California. This vineyard is a bit south-west of Sacramento, in the Sacramento River delta, where cool breezes from the San Francisco Bay cool the grapes creating hot afternoons and cool evenings that make for ideal conditions to grow Chenin Blanc. We use a 500 gallon egg-shaped concrete fermentation vessel to highlight the minerality of the grapes, and the results have exceeded our expectations.

Production

In 2023 the vintage was simply the best we’ve experienced from this vineyard, and the grapes were incredibly flavorful with good acidity, lovely aromas, and ripe Chenin Blanc varietal flavors. We picked at night to keep the grapes as cold as possible and pressed the grapes to our egg-shaped concrete fermenter (known as “Black Bart”) immediately. As is our style, we fermented the grapes on the native yeasts found on the grape skins. The fermentation took off slowly and progressed perfectly for almost 25 days. We left the wine on its lees for toasty flavors and rich texture.

We love to bottle our white wines as soon as possible to keep the freshness and liveliness of the wine intact. We bottled in late February after harvest, and from the start, we’ve been excited at the richness, velvety texture, and wonderful aromatics of the wine.

Production Notes :

Varietals

100% Chenin Blanc

Appellation

Clarksburg

Alcohol

12.5% by vol.

Production

455 cases, 750ml

Elevage

Concrete egg

Tasting Notes:

Color: Pale gold

Aroma: Beautiful intense aromas of pear and stonefruit (peach and apricot), with hints of honeycomb, minerals, and a sweet spice finish.

Taste: Lush and round on entry, with apricot, pear, and honey flavors predominant. The wine shows a lovely acid balance, with hints of grapefruit and a round, mouth-filling stonefruit finish that persists for minutes.