

BRIEF HISTORY OF PINOT BLANC

Pinot blanc, like Pinot gris, is a genetic mutation of Pinot noir that has been cultivated throughout Northern Europe for centuries. Pinot blanc is planted widely in Alsace, as well as Germany (as Weissburgunder), and northern Italy (as Pinot bianco), and in smaller amounts in pockets of Burgundy and Eastern Europe. Pinot blanc was first planted in Oregon in 1967, but there are still fewer than 200 acres in production here.

THE 2020 VINTAGE

The 2020 vintage was a roller-coaster ride from the very beginning. Wide swings between early season heat then cool, wet conditions leading up to and during bloom resulted in a poor fruit set with small berries and small clusters. Overall, the crop was down about 50%, promising small volumes of highly concentrated wines with superior depth and balanced acidity. Then came the Labor Day wildfires bringing smoke throughout the Valley, but the impact of smoke on grapes varied significantly from site to site depending on proximity to the fires and local topographical features. In spite of everything, small amounts of beautiful wines could be made in 2020.



2020 PINOT BLANC

Harvest date: October 1, 2020

Grapes at harvest: Brix 22.0, pH 3.12, TA 7.7 gr/liter

Finished wine: Alcohol 13.2 %, pH 3.22, TA 7.2 gr/liter

No residual sugar

Bottled unfiltered October 8, 2021

300 cases produced

VINIFICATION: The fruit was whole cluster pressed and settled 72 hours prior to racking into a jacketed stainless steel fermentation tank. Fermentation was cool, never exceeding 58°F and lasted for one month. The new wine was then racked to our 30-hectoliter oak oval for 10 months and bottled without malolactic fermentation.

WINEMAKER NOTES: Four acres planted in 1992 on one of the best slopes on the West side of our estate vineyard, our own rooted Pinot Blanc continues to be a favorite of mine, despite the diminishing amounts we bring through the door. Teeming with freshness and aromatic intensity not typical for the variety.