

GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

2019 RUSSIAN RIVER SELECTION SAUVIGNON BLANC RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

VINEYARDS

The Patient Terrier Vineyard is a family-owned property located on Eastside Road, in the heart of Russian River Valley. The 24-acre site is planted to predominantly Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, but two small acres of Sauvignon Blanc were introduced in 2012. The mixture of clones 1, 23 and 30 offer a beautiful array of varietal aromas, flavors and textures. The site has a volcanic clay, rock and Goldridge Sandy Loam composition with well-drained topsoil, so a moderately vigorous, clay-preferring rootstock was chosen. Owner Greg Conklin's goal is to produce the finest wine grapes possible while remaining a good steward of the land, and farming practices strive to maintain the proper balance between vine growth and fruit development. The ultimate goal is to be able to pick the grapes at optimal ripeness so that the wine possesses varietal character and a true sense of place.

VINTAGE

After record-breaking rainfall in late February, causing major flooding in the areas surrounding the Russian River, a relatively cool spring followed, delaying bud break into mid to late March. The delayed onset and cool temperatures would predict the beginning of harvest at a more typical date, compared to a few past vintages. The month of May brought more heavy rains. Thankfully, the cold temperatures and delayed start of bud break meant that bloom was later as well, and only a few vineyards had started to produce flowers, so damage to the crop was minimal. Summer temperatures were perfect and mild. By June, growers began to see that a big crop was forming. Come July, veraison was under way and growers had to drop lots of unevenly ripening clusters on several occasions. By the middle of August, the Sauvignon Blanc clusters were looking a beautiful greenish-yellow. Everything was perfectly in balance. Despite the quantity of clusters per vine, flavor, concentration and tannin levels were quite excellent. Canopy management was extremely important in that fruit thinning was necessary at multiple stages of vine development. The result at the Patient Terrier Vineyard was perfect for a beautiful, whole cluster pressed Sauvignon Blanc.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were harvested on September 23rd at a vibrant 22.5° Brix. A quick pass was made through our rows at Patient Terrier Vineyard a few days prior to harvest in order to drop fruit that didn't express the optimal flavor concentration. As anticipated, the grapes that were delivered to the winery were packed with delicious, zippy, varietally expressive characteristics. The same morning we combined all the fruit in the press, and used a gentle program to extract only the most desirable solids and phenolics. The resulting juice was left in tank to cold-settle overnight before transferring 20% of the blend to older barrels for fermentation and aging. The remainder of the blend was fermented in stainless steel, resting on its primary lees until it was time to bottle in January.

TASTING NOTES

Pale straw yellow with a slight greenish tint, the appearance of this wine immediately suggests fresh, crisp, vibrant high tones. Lifted aromas of lemon blossom, lime peel, chamomile, poached pear and flint open up into flavors of tart Meyer lemon, grapefruit, quince and a hint of anise. The tingling sensation on the tongue from the tangy acidity, combined with a slight creaminess from extended lees contact, builds into a long, succulent finish.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

APPELLATION

Russian River Valley

VINEYARDS

Patient Terrier Vineyard

COMPOSITION

100% Sauvignon Blanc

FERMENTATION & AGING

Aged in stainless steel: 80%
stainless steel fermented;
20% neutral French oak barrel
fermented

ALCOHOL

13.5%

pH / T.A.

3.15 / 6.7gm/L

PRODUCTION

244 Cases

BOTTLING DATE

January 29, 2020

RELEASE DATE

May 2020

RETAIL PRICE

\$32