



GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

2020 ROCHIOLI VINEYARD SAUVIGNON BLANC RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

Vineyard

About five miles from our winery up the gently winding Westside Road, the 162-acre Rochioli Vineyard was originally purchased in 1938 by Joe Rochioli, Sr. The vision of growing highest quality wine grapes along these fertile, gravelly soils was carried out by Joe Jr. after his father's passing in 1966. We began working with Sauvignon Blanc from the famed Rochioli Vineyard in 2019. This iconic family-owned winery has produced amazing quality old vine Sauvignon Blanc for many years so we are honored to continue working with the fruit. This particular section of the vineyard was planted in 2001 to the rare ENTAV clone 376, known to produce moderate yields with tremendous varietal character, aromatic intensity, body and excellent acidity. This clone was selected by Joe Rochioli, Jr. as a beautiful counterpoint to the original old vines on the estate that were planted 1959.

Vintage

What an interesting year 2020 was around the world, and here in wine country as well. The growing season began with one of the driest winters in memory, and certainly the driest February in recorded history. The dry weather continued through the spring months and even into summer, leaving the vines with very little soil moisture to maintain a healthy canopy. Water stress can actually create beautifully concentrated wines, and that's precisely what we're observing. Budbreak and flowering began a couple of weeks ahead of the previous season, indicating an early onset of harvest. The summer weather was relatively mild, with very few heat spikes, so the vines soaked up the sun, producing a beautifully balanced crop with small to moderately sized clusters. Moving into late summer, veraison was early, but the weather and the crop were looking pretty close to ideal. In the middle of August, wildfires caused a number of interruptions and cut the harvest short by a great deal, but neither the winery nor the vineyards suffered damage.

Winemaking

This tiny 3-ton section of vines was picked on September 4th at 22.4 Brix. The grapes were hand sorted, then whole cluster pressed using a modified Champagne pressing program that gently extracts solids to enhance body and intensity during fermentation. The juice was mostly tank fermented at a very cool temperature in order to capture freshness, varietal character and aromatic intensity, but a small amount was partially fermented in neutral oak barrels in order to build richness and texture. When the barrels neared end of fermentation, the must was again combined with the must in the stainless steel tank where it was left on primary lees until it was time to prepare the wine for bottling.

Tasting Notes

This beautiful Rochioli Sauvignon Blanc offers pure varietal expression, with aromas of peach blossom, gooseberry, passion fruit, dried ginger and lemon zest. This vibrant, aromatic beauty has a medium-bodied palate that is layered with exotic notes of guava, lemongrass, tangerine and melon, and a mouthwatering, fleshy texture that is framed by bright, zippy acidity. The long, expressive finish is lively and seamless.

Appellation

Russian River Valley

Vineyards

Rochioli Vineyard

Composition

100% Sauvignon Blanc

Fermentation & Aging

80% stainless steel fermented;
20% fermented in neutral French
oak barrels, then combined.
Combined blend aged 4 months
in stainless steel

Alcohol

13.4%

pH / T.A.

3.23/ 6.2 gm/L

Production

139 Cases

Bottling Date

January 26, 2021

Release Date

May 2021

Retail Price

\$36