

2020 STAR LANE CHENIN BLANC

STAR LANE VINEYARD, HAPPY CANYON OF SANTA BARBARA

ALCOHOL
13.5%

AGED
7
months

OAK
50% Neutral Oak Barrels
50% Stainless Steel Barrels

HARVESTED
August 2020

BOTTLED
Feb 2021

CELLAR LIFE
5-10 years

VINTAGE

While 2020 was marked throughout California by wildfires and other challenges, the vintage in Santa Barbara and specifically Happy Canyon proved to be quite good and relatively unaffected by the challenges faced in the north of the state. Star Lane Vineyard once again showed its health and resiliency, even through normal heat spikes, and ended up producing balanced and delicious Chenin Blanc which we find performs quite well in the dry conditions of the region.

WINEMAKER NOTES

The same terroir-driven qualities which lend to the production of excellent California Cabernet Sauvignon seem to aid in the growing of delicious and inviting Chenin Blanc at Star Lane Vineyard. Chenin likes slopes and elevations—in Savennières the Chenin Blanc vineyards are so steep they must all be horse plowed and hand-harvested. The serpentine soils and aspect of Star Lane Vineyard seem to play to Chenin Blanc's strengths.

The grapes are gently pressed in a “Champagne press cycle” to minimize rotations and forceful pressure - both of which can increase solids and occlude a wine's purity - the juice is then settled and moved into neutral oak barrels and stainless-steel barrels. The latter promotes a lifted and floral aroma which we've grown to appreciate, and the neutral oak balances the natural high acidity with rounder tecture. While it can be common to leave residual sugar in this naturally high acid variety in order to bring balance, we elect to use a different tool - malolactic fermentation - to soften the acidity and draw the wine into balance. About 60% of the barrels completed secondary fermentation and all were aged on their lees through the next harvest prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES

A classy Chenin Blanc, the nose sings with Granny Smith apple, greengage, and a slight note of honey. The body is rich but balanced with bright acidity and a drive which carries the bright green apple character through to the finish. Fans of Tyler Thomas's Chardonnay wines, especially Drum Canyon Chardonnay, will be sure to fall in love with Star Lane Vineyard Chenin Blanc as well.

