



## 2023 Napa Valley White Wine

This wine is our conception of a mythical "ideal" wine...a California wine with a spiritual connection to Friuli, Italy, but also drawing inspiration from the great whites of the Loire, Burgundy, Graves, Alsace, the Rhone, and old-school Napa and Sonoma...actually, the list of great whites we are inspired by goes on and on, and it is all wrapped up in this wine. This wine is an attempt at getting at the core of what white wine is all about, the archetypal "white wine," thus the name. It's a very intentional blend of four varieties from two vineyards.

Our iconic white blend was composed of 40% Sauvignon blanc, 30% Ribolla Gialla, 24% Semillon, and 6% Tocai Friulano in 2023.

The Sauvignon Blanc brings a clean fresh citrusy acidity and some tropical character. The Ribolla Gialla brings seashell minerality, nuttiness, and structure to the blend. The Semillon contributes viscosity and waxiness that adds gravity and weight. The Tocai Friulano adds spicy aromatic notes. The acidity and fruit expression are balanced by a rich lees character and a faint backdrop of creamy oak. There is interplay in the wine between lightness and richness, as well as focus and complexity.

The 2022 White Wine has its trademark spice and mineral quality, and another perfect growing season helped the wine deliver plenty of acidity and freshness. Trademark flavors include white peach, kaffir lime, lychee nut, beeswax, ripe fig, and pineapple, with prominent wet stones like flint, oyster shells, and freshly baled straw.

The fruit is whole cluster pressed using a long, gentle cycle to preserve the acidity and avoid any bitterness. Native fermentation in 20% new French oak. Minimal lees stirring, aged sur lies for 10 months. Malolactic fermentation is blocked. Intended to age, the White Wine is held in bottle for at least a year before release but will reward much longer aging. The first vintage of this blend, back in 2005, is still going strong.

The pH is 3.35, TA is 6.8, and the alcohol is 13.0%. 1083 cases produced.

### The Vineyards

The two vineyards are both in the cool and foggy southern part of the Napa Valley.

The Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon come from Ryan's Vineyard, which sits on a streak of alluvial gravel in the center of the valley floor, in the south part of Napa. It is right in the path of the daily wind current that pulls up through the valley from the San Francisco Bay towards Calistoga. Native grasses are planted under the vines to compete for moisture and nutrients and encourage the roots to forage down deep in the gravelly soil.

The Ribolla Gialla and Tocai Friulano are from the tiny Bengier Vineyard (formerly Vare), in the mouth of Napa's Dry Creek canyon, right next to the creek. The rocky fluvial soil and cool air drainage of the canyon works perfectly with the variety. Ribolla Gialla is an extremely old variety cultivated since medieval times in the Collio region of Italy and Slovenia.