

Lang & Reed 2016 Chenin Blanc – Napa Valley

This 2016 Chenin Blanc - Napa Valley is the third vintage in Lang & Reed's exploration of this wonderful grape in this appellation! A generation ago, the noble Chenin Blanc was the most widely planted white grape in the Napa Valley, almost double the acreage of Chardonnay. Today, there are a scant 14 acres that are in high demand by a new generation of winemakers, who seek to create something special from this unique varietal. For Lang & Reed, the inspiration remains the Loire Valley in France, where Chenin Blanc gained its fame. The source for this bottling comes from the Oak Knoll District in the Napa Valley. The vineyard is located a stone's throw from the Napa River, in an area noted for its cool climate and well drained soils.

The wines vinification is a collaborative effort between John and son, Reed. Reed has had his hand in making white wine on three continents - Sauvignon Blanc in New Zealand, Chardonnay in Napa Valley and Chenin Blanc in Chinon, France. For this wine, the grapes were whole-cluster pressed, left to settle for a day, and then transferred into 10 barrels, two of which were stainless steel and the remainder were seasoned French oak. Half of the barrels were inoculated with selected yeast strains, while the balances were allowed to ferment on the indigenous yeast. The lees were stirred (battonage) biweekly until February, one month before bottling. The final assemblage proved greater than any of the individual barrels.

Description

The Lang & Reed 2016 Chenin Blanc – Napa Valley has a brilliant green-gold color that flashes when swirled and then gives off an inviting aroma of stone fruit, peach, pear, and a touch of honey. On the palate, jasmine and herbs comingle with apricot nectar and orange blossom honey, while showing off a bracing acidity and a slight saline, mineral complexity. This wine is a full mouthful of flavor... no shrinking violet here! With its underlying structure, it will age beautifully over the next few years.

Varietal Composition 100% Chenin Blanc

Appellation 100% Oak Knoll District – Napa Valley

Alcohol Content 13.50% by Volume Total Acidity 0.66g/100mL

pH 3.40

Cooperage French Oak & Stainless Steel Barrels – 4 Months

Case Production 248 Cases (12 x 750mL)

Bottling Date April 5, 2017

Label Design Jeanne Greco, Caffe Greco Design, New York

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