

Lang & Reed 2023 Talmage Chenin Blanc, Mendocino

This 45-year-old Chenin Blanc vineyard, located on the Talmage Bench along the Russian River in Mendocino, has been producing distinct wines for over a generation. The vineyard is planted on a gentle, north-facing slope that allows for great drainage and excellent aspect for even ripening without too much heat accumulation.

With the highly regarded 2023 vintage of the Talmage bottling, it is now over a decade of working with these grapes. The results possess the components of a more luxurious wine from extended aging in fine French oak barrels. For this wine, the grapes were whole cluster pressed and left to settle for a day, then transferred into barrels and fermented on its indigenous yeast. The lees were stirred (battonage) bi-weekly until just prior to bottling. It was aged for 16 months in barrel. This regime reveals greater nuance of the relationship between wine and the effects of the barrel.

Description

The initial aroma of this wine is delicate and perfumy. It evolves into scents of peach and orange blossom, with touches of rose and lychees, yet with a distinct vinous quality of freshness. On the first sip, there is a softness that belies the later underpinning of acidity. As the wine crosses the palate, it shows an expansion of fruit flavors that include golden delicious apple and tangy nectarines. Later, natural acidity becomes apparent and further supports the complexity that includes characteristic Chenin markers of lanolin, honey, and a touch of earth. The finish is voluminous and structured, and, though the flavors are complete for drinking now, the makeup of this wine will allow for greater complexity with some bottle age.

Varietal Composition 100% Chenin Blanc

Appellation 100% Mendocino – Talmage Bench

Alcohol Content 13.9% by Volume Total Acidity 0.59g/100mL

pH 3.18

Cooperage 16 months, 1 x François Frères, 1 x Louis Latour, 1 x Gauthier

Case Production 106 Cases (12 x 750mL)

Bottling Date January 30, 2025

Label Design Jeanne Greco, Caffe Greco Design, New York

Release Date September 2025 SRP \$60.00/750mL

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