



Populis Sauvignon Blanc 2022

Who: Diego Roig & Shaunt Oungoulian

Producer Summary (basic history): Diego Roig and Shaunt Oungoulian make about 4,000 cases of wine across their two labels: the more stately Les Lunes wines from vineyards they farm and the democratized Populis wines made from purchased fruit. Representing about 2/3rds of their total production, Populis is their label dedicated to easy drinking and affordability.

Where: Orinda, California

Varietals: Sauvignon Blanc with a small portion of French Colombard and Orange Muscat

Viticulture & Farming Practices: Organic with some biodynamic practices

Vintage Notes: The Spring of 2022 came early and warm, only to be followed by a cold snap. The result was that early budding plants matured very quickly and that late budding plants ripened quite late. “Overall, this ended up to be great,” Shaunt writes, “the whites being crisp and fresh (picking early) and the reds had a chance to get nice and ripe phenologically without too much alcohol and keeping their acidity.”

Vineyards: Sauvignon Blanc from 3 different vineyards in Mendocino and Lodi supplemented by Mendocino French Colombard and Orange Muscat in Lodi.

Vinification: Most of the Sauvignon Blanc and the French Colombard were roughly whole cluster pressed to draw out phenolics. Settled overnight then racked into steel tanks for spontaneous fermentation. Racked to 300L FlexTanks for aging. Each vineyard was picked and processed separately. The Orange Muscat as well as the Upton Vineyard and Lolonis Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc were skin-fermented.

Production: 901 cases

Tasting Notes: The mouthfeel is characterized by laser-like acidity, while the aromas and flavors strike a balance between greenness and riper opulence. The old-vines give this Sauvignon blanc an additional dimension of depth and complexity, while the French Colombard adds a layer of extra acidity to complement the added aromas from the Orange Muscat.

Fun Fact: After years of working in Shaunts’ parents’ basement, Les Lunes was able to acquire its own dedicated warehouse winery just before the onset of harvest in 2022. “We only got in a few weeks before grapes were coming,” Shaunt writes, “stuff was a bit MacGeyvered.” Having a single, dedicated commercial





space rather than splitting their time between a retrofitted residential facility and a rented space in a larger winery is crucial: “We're way less constricted logistically, so we have a lot more time to focus on the wines than dealing with trucking and all that.”

Blend sourcing by vineyard:

Sauvignon blanc:

Venturi Vineyard, Mendocino County;
Upton Vineyard, Redwood Valley (Mendocino);
Lolonis Vineyard, Redwood Valley (Mendocino);
Mio Vigneto, Clements Hills (Lodi)

French Colombard: Inland Ranch, Redwood Valley (Mendocino)

Orange Muscat: Hartwick Vineyard, Mokelumne River (Lodi)

