

florez wines

Santa Cruz, California

White Rhino 2021



Variety 100% Grenache Blanc
Location Dunnigan Hills, Yolo County
Vineyard Windmill, CCOF Organic
Soil Pink Gravel Alluvium
Production 65 cases
Alcohol 12%

Expression

Grenache Blanc is a unique grape that is known to be sensitive to oxidation. While this wine is not oxidized, the skin contact has intensified the amber color. You can see just how sensitive this variety is by observing the color change the day after opening. This change is particularly dramatic because this is an sunfulured wine. Aromas of pineapple, honeydew, caramel and spice. The palate has a good acidity and nutty finish. I'm snacking on comté as I write and taste. Bon appetite.

Vineyard

Rolling hills of olives, fruit trees, and grapes prove to you that this terroir is well suited to Rhone varieties. Cared for by the calm and focused Sergio Villanueva this CCOF organic vineyard was first consulted for by progressive Viticulturalist Steve Mathiasson. Unfortunately they are pulling out the Grenache Blanc due to virus pressure and this will be the last release of White Rhino from Windmill vineyard!

Vinification

This vintage 2/3 of the fruit was direct pressed and the other 1/3 was foot tread. The plan was to ferment the two styles separately and see the different expressions and

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evaluate the best way to work with this specific fruit. However the direct press fermentation struggled to get going for a few days, so the decision was made to combine the healthy and vigorous foot tread fermentation into the still unfermenting direct press juice to avoid any problems. After a healthy native fermentation was established, the fermenting juice was racked down to neutral oak barrels. The wine was left to rest for 6 months sur lie before being racked once and bottled. Unfined, unfiltered, and no SO₂ added at any point.