



BLEND

*Pinot
Grigio 95%
Chardonnay 5%*

2009 PINOT GRIGIO *Napa Valley*

VINEYARD

The 2009 growing season was a steady string of eighty-five degree days, with many of the grapes ripening a few weeks earlier than usual. Most of these grapes were grown on our Estate Vineyard, and the other lots come from Carneros and Big Ranch Road vineyards. The Chardonnay in the blend comes from a thirty-seven year old dry-farmed vineyard on Bald Mountain. Our Pinot Grigio is always the first fruit that we harvest, and picking for this varietal was completed in early September.

WINEMAKING

Our white wines are pressed the same day that they are picked, but each vineyard lot is kept separate until just before bottling. About eighty percent of the wine is full-cluster pressed to ensure great acidity, and the other twenty percent is de-stemmed and crushed, which results in a richer mouth-feel. The juice is fermented with native yeasts, twenty percent of the Pinot Grigio in neutral French oak barrels, and the balance in stainless steel tanks. Thirty percent of the wine went through malolactic fermentation to add further texture to the mouth-feel. The Chardonnay was blended for its contribution to the wine's acid balance. The wine was filtered, blended, and bottled in the second week of July, 2010.

TASTING NOTES

The 2009 Pinot Grigio is a light golden color. The nose is scented with grapefruit and pear, and on the palate orange fruits come to the forefront. Mango and orange zest are accented by notes of guava and a pronounced minerality. The wonderful acidity and full-bodied texture carry through a delicious lemony finish with hints of apricot. This wine will be at its peak from now through the end of 2012.

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