

# BALVERNE

*CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY AND CHALK HILL*

2014

*Russian River Valley*

## Sauvignon Blanc

### WINEMAKER

Margaret Davenport

### APPELLATION

Russian River Valley

### VARIETAL

100% Sauvignon Blanc

### ALCOHOL

14.4%

### TITRATABLE ACIDITY

6.43 g/L

### pH

3.37

### CASES PRODUCED

273

### VINEYARD

The Russian River Valley Appellation, with its cooler summer temperatures, is a great area for growing aromatic white wine grapes. A longer ripening period allows slow and complete maturation of flavor compounds in the grape skins. When the vintage is perfect for white grapes, as was 2013, the resulting wines can show intense varietal character.

### WINEMAKING

Sauvignon Blanc, as with other white grapes, profits from being hand harvested. This gentle method, from 40 pound totes to half ton bins, discourages early juicing, which leads to overly oxidized juice and concomitant extraction from skins prior to pressing the grapes. Harvesting is done at night, when even hot summer temperatures can drop below 55 deg Fahrenheit. The nearby Pacific Ocean is our air conditioner.

White grapes are usually destemmed and lightly crushed on their journey to the wine press. Whole cluster pressing is essential for only warm grapes or overly ripe white grapes. Cold juice from the press pan is quickly pumped to waiting tanks, where it is chilled and settled for several days. Then the juice is racked off solids and yeasted.

Yeast choice can have a great influence on white wine character, making more aroma compounds in the juice available during fermentation. A slow, cold ferment at 50 deg Fahrenheit will help preserve these aromas and flavors. Sauvignon Blanc is not barrel aged but bottled quickly after Christmas each year. By April, when Spring is in the air, Sauvignon Blanc is ready to sip and enjoy.

### WINE

Fresh aromas of citrus and boxwood leap from the glass. A bright acidity makes this humble white wine an excellent complement to food, from exotic Thai dishes to cheese and crackers. It's refreshing on a hot day; even an ice cube won't diminish its aroma and flavors of grapefruit that fade to honey and jasmine.

