

N A P A VALLEY

Raymond

2014 SMALL LOT COLLECTION NAPA VALLEY WHITE MERITAGE



TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION: NAPA VALLEY

VARIETALS: 62% SAUVIGNON
BLANC, 38% SEMILLON

ALCOHOL: 14.5% BY VOL.

PH: 3.4

TA: 5.95

FERMENTATION: SAUVIGNON BLANC
WAS AGED IN STAINLESS STEEL FOR
12 MONTHS AND THE SEMILLON WAS
AGED IN NEUTRAL FRENCH OAK
BARRELS FOR 12 MONTHS

IN THE VINEYARD

The grapes for the Napa Valley White Meritage come from our estate vineyards in Jameson Canyon and select Napa Valley growers located in Chiles Valley District and Yountville. The estate vineyards are planted on rolling hills at the southern end of Napa Valley, where the growing conditions are very similar to Carneros, the neighboring appellation just west of the Napa River. Winds flow through Jameson Canyon, carrying in the cooling influence of the nearby Pacific Ocean, providing a long, cool growing season that enhances the intensity of the Sauvignon Blanc flavors.

ABOUT THE VINTAGE

In spite of the drought and the South Napa earthquake, vintners are using words like “quality,” “depth of flavor” and “excellent” to describe the 2014 vintage in Napa Valley. Many are also noting “perfect weather,” “abundant crop” and “good fortune”. Harvest started and ended earlier than usual. The first grapes for sparkling wine picked on July 30 and nearly all harvest activity was completed by the third week in October – for many, a full two weeks ahead of the normal harvest schedule.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKER

Using no malolactic fermentation, a mix of native and inoculated yeasts and sur-lie aging, the Sauvignon Blanc was fermented in stainless steel while the Semillion was aged in neutral French oak barrels.

WINE PROFILE

Opening with exhilarating aromas of lychee nut, grapefruit and jasmine, our 2014 White Meritage is a well-balanced wine made in the style of a Bordeaux Blanc. An upfront creaminess is balanced with a bright acidity in the finish with flavors of passionfruit, minerality and a touch of floral rosemary upon the palate.