



CHATEAU MONTELENA WINERY
ESTABLISHED 1882

2014 NAPA VALLEY SAUVIGNON BLANC WINEMAKER'S NOTES

In the grand scheme of things, we're relative newcomers to Sauvignon Blanc. But few people know that we farm a small block of 30+ year-old Sauvignon Blanc vines adjacent to our Chardonnay in western Oak Knoll. The budwood for these vines can be traced back to the famous To Kalon vineyard in Oakville – a special pedigree that is only enhanced by the fact that the last Sauvignon Blanc vines in To Kalon were budded over years ago as the world's unquenchable thirst for Napa Valley Cabernet continues to grow. We've come to appreciate our little piece of living history and over the last half a dozen vintages have quietly but ardently worked on unlocking the true expression of this vineyard in creating the wine you have today. Philosophically, this wine is 100% Chateau Montelena, albeit the newest addition to the family.

The latitude of our vineyard in western Oak Knoll (38°20'50 – for those checking) can act like a stylistic Maginot Line in warm, temperate vintages like 2014. This is especially true with this variety. To the south, most Sauvignon Blanc brims with a New Zealand-popularized aromatic profile of grapefruit, lemon, and grass. As one heads upvalley to the north, ripe California flavors of melon, stone fruit, and kiwi dominate. Consequently, our site enables us to walk the fine line between the two styles and, in vintages like 2014, allows us to create a wine that combines the best of each.

In the glass, the 2014 Sauvignon Blanc is bright and straw-colored, with vibrant aromas of peach, orange blossom, and fresh flowers that layer out and linger. After a minute or so, ripe melon comes to the forefront with just a hint of fresh cut grass. The palate is rich and viscous – juicy grapefruit collides with strawberries amidst a subtle creaminess. The acidity pulls through to the finish as kiwi and banana are interwoven with lemon curd and subtle spice.

Matt Crafton, Winemaker
February 2015

Harvest Date:	September 7, 2014
Alcohol:	14.2%
Bottling Date:	December 11, 2014
Release Date:	Spring 2015