

SMALL BLESSINGS

SWEAR TO GOD

2021 APPELLATION: SKAHA BENCH (VQA)

HARVEST NOTES

The 2021 vintage continued a series of challenging growing seasons in the Okanagan Valley. After the heat dome scorched the entire valley with temperatures soaring above 48°C, we transitioned into smoke from fires both near and far. The vines struggled through the heat and the result was a dramatic decrease in our crop level. At harvest we encountered another interesting phenomenon – uneven ripening. In some blocks, we were seeing a difference of 7 to 10 days between different parts of the cluster. It was great for maintaining bright, natural acidity in the fruit on the delayed portion while achieving a ripe fruit profile on the other. Every pick was a nerve-racking decision but we have managed to capture a brilliant expression of the 2021 vintage in our wines. Beautiful fruit profiles, balanced natural acidity, and modest alcohol levels all signal that the 2021 vintage will provide approachable but also age-worthy wines, albeit in painfully low quantities!

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Colour: Medium gold.

Nose: Lemon, white florals, green apple, tangerine, and brioche.

Palate: A rich attack of lemon and apple carries into the fresh, textural mid-palate. Brioche, pear, and honey take the wine into the balanced finish.

Food Pairing: Halibut, buttery crab, or a roasted chicken.

WINEMAKING

Our estate grown Chardonnay was hand-harvested on September 21st from our upper vineyard block. The fruit was whole cluster pressed to tank to cold settle before being racked to French oak barrels (86%), of which 33% was new, and stainless-steel barrel (14%) for fermentation and aging on the lees with periodic battonage. The wine was allowed to go through partial spontaneous malolactic fermentation until the cellar team felt the proper balance had been reached. After 10 months on the lees, the wine was racked from barrel to tank for blending and put back to barrel for another month before bottling.

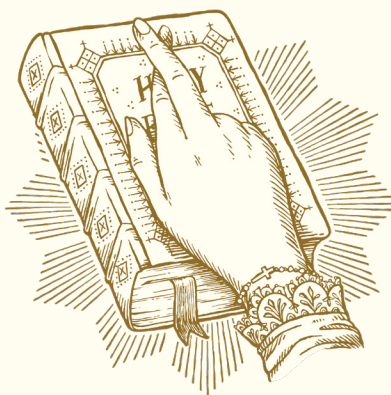
VARIETAL PROFILE

100% Chardonnay

Alcohol: 13.0%

Cases Produced: 169

CSPC: 734822



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