

Proprietor Selected
SPECIAL CUVÉE

Elizabeth Spencer

CHENIN BLANC
MENDOCINO

Vintage 2009

15 Barrels

Produced & Bottled by Elizabeth Spencer Wines.

APPELLATION: MENDOCINO
VARIETAL BLEND: 100% CHENIN BLANC
PRODUCTION: 15 BARRELS
WINEMAKERS: SPENCER GRAHAM

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Pale white gold in color. This wine offers alluring aromas of summer melon, white peach and pear. Initially lush on the palate, it continues to build rich, full flavors towards Bosc pear and tangy lemon. An astounding core of acidity heightens the intensity of the flavors without weighing down the wine. A long delicious finish, with a vibrant acidity that maintains the freshness and focus of this delightful wine.

WINEMAKING

Our 2009 Chenin Blanc was harvested by hand in late September. Upon arrival at the winery, we pressed the whole clusters and then fermented in stainless steel. Temperatures during fermentation were kept as low as possible in order to preserve the freshness of the fruit and the more delicate aromas. Following fermentation, the wine was aged while in tank in order to broaden the mid-palate and add complexity to the flavor profile.

VINEYARDS

This Chenin Blanc comes from a 30-year old vineyard in Mendocino with a slightly northwestern aspect. This subtle orientation away from the direct summer sun assured that our Chenin did not overheat in the late afternoons during the growing season. Therefore, as the fruit matured on the vine, it developed complexity while retaining the natural acidity and distinctively elegant aromatics that are a hallmark of the variety. While a very popular variety in the Loire region of France, Chenin Blanc is still an underappreciated grape variety in California. Only a few vineyard owners have recognized this grape's potential for being made into high quality wine. Elizabeth Spencer has made a commitment to producing wine from this delicious, yet often overlooked, variety.

VINTAGE

The 2009 vintage in northern California turned out to be an ideal one with generally cool conditions followed by perfectly timed late-season rains. Moderate temperatures throughout the growing season allowed for even ripening conditions and set the platform for excellent wines. Circumstances could not have been better leading up to and through our harvest in late September. The 2009 Elizabeth Spencer Chenin Blanc is a beautiful example of the variety in California, showcasing the combination of delicacy, intensity and classic character.

VINTAGE

This Chenin Blanc is delicious upon release and will continue to hold up well in the bottle for the next 3-5 years.

Elizabeth Spencer

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