

2018 Eritage Vineyard Chardonnay



pH: 3.30

Titrateable Acidity: 6.4 g/L

Alcohol: 13.4%

Harvest Parameters: September 4, 2018 at 23.3 Brix, 3.36 pH, and 5.9 g/L of titrateable acidity.

Blend: 100% Wente clone Chardonnay, Eritage Vineyard, block 16. All stainless steel fermentation and aging.

Cases produced: 119

Release Date: April 2021

Winemaker's Notes: This stainless steel Chardonnay showcases the natural characteristics of the varietal, closer to a Chablis style even though the grapes were sourced from the warm climate found at Eritage Vineyard. It opens with pear, yellow apple, and peach on the nose followed by green apple, peach, pear, pineapple, and lemon curd on the palate. The wine's bright acidity carries through to the finish with a touch of minerality from the Palouse loess soil in which the grapes were grown. 100% Wente clone, 3.3 pH, and 6.4 g/L of titrateable acidity. Drink now through 2035.

Winemaking: The goal for this wine was to make a Chablis style Chardonnay: high acid, stainless steel Chardonnay from a vineyard in the Walla Walla Valley. With the great 2018 vintage, the grapes were our first pick of the year at the beginning of September. I typically want to pick it around 22 Brix, and we actually got it a little riper with bright natural acidity. Harvested on September 4th, the grapes were pressed with the use of enzymes for settling and juice extraction and an ascorbic acid, SO₂, and tannin blend to control oxygen contact. The wine was fermented with QA23 yeast in a stainless steel tank at 56 degrees until completely dry. Total time: 28 days in fermentation. After fermentation was complete, SO₂ was added to stop ML from occurring, the wine was cold stabilized and bentonite was added to bind proteins. The wine was racked off the sediment and prepared for bottling. The wine was crossflow filtered and bottled on January 29th, 2019. 100% stainless steel.

Awards: 90 pts - Owen Bargreen

89 pts - Wine Advocate (Anthony Mueller)

88 pts - James Suckling

87 pts - Wine Enthusiast (Sean Sullivan)

Silver - 2021 Seattle Wine Awards

Silver - 2021 Cascadia Wine Competition