

Wine Spectator

TASTING REPORTS

CALIFORNIA SUCCESS STORY

Innovative winemaking is driving Sauvignon Blanc to new heights of popularity and acclaim

By MaryAnn Worobiec / From the Apr 30, 2024, issue



Among California white wines, Sauvignon Blanc was once overshadowed by Chardonnay, whose dominance in the state seemed unrivaled. But lately this underdog grape has emerged to widespread recognition in its own right. With a refreshing profile and an attractive quality-to-price ratio, Sauvignon Blanc from the Golden State has captured the hearts of wine lovers, becoming the go-to white for many occasions.

“What’s surprising to me is that it took so long to gain popularity,” says Clos du Val winemaker Carmel Greenberg about the rise of Sauvignon Blanc.

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In her cellar, Shared Notes’ González Rave tries to limit her wines’ exposure to oxygen with inert gas and reductive environments. “We have a careful and low-yielding press cycle for obtaining the delicate juice and minimal unwanted phenolics,” she says. “We then ferment and age on lees in 100 percent new oak. Sauvignon Blanc is unforgiving and follows a fine line to preserve the aromatics.”



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SHARED NOTES

Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon Russian River Valley
Les Leçons des Maîtres 2022

Wonderfully vibrant, with a stunning mix of fresh, crisp lime, Asian pear and lemon zest notes, backed by zingy acidity that keeps the flavors fresh and focused, creating a sense of transparency and verve.

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POINTS**



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River Valley Les Pierres Qui Décident 2022

Sleek, mouthwatering and intense, with crushed rock minerality up front and a core of mouthwatering fruit flavors, including yuzu, Meyer lemon and lime sherbet. Offers aromatic details of green tea, makrut lime leaf and fresh-grated ginger, with hints of white pepper. Fresh and focused on the long finish. Drink now through 2029. 98 cases made.

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POINTS**