



COMBE CHENIN BLANC

CUVEE AUGUST
Stolpman Vineyards
Ballard Canyon
2017



BACKGROUND

Pete Stolpman's esoteric collaboration is labeled "Combe" referring to the French word for a small sheltered valley within a vineyard.

Sometime around 2010, Pete became convinced of the great potential for the pale red Trousseau grape on the Limestone soils of Stolpman Vineyards. We decided to make a light red Trousseau and a Trousseau Pet'Nat (the only Pet'Nat of Trousseau in the world). The first vintage for the Trousseau wines was 2014, and we now have 3.5 acres planted to the varietal. Next, we decided to plant Chenin Blanc, and our 1.5 acres of Chenin began producing in 2016. 2019 will mark the first production of a half-acre each of Gamay and Mondeuse.

We continue to propagate Poulsard and Savagnin and we hope to start seeing fruit within a few years.



TECH

VINEYARD COMPONENTS Block 4 Chenin Blanc	COOPERAGES & ELEVAGE Aged 10 months in second-fill 500L French Puncheon
VARIETAL BLEND 100% Chenin Blanc	RELEASE DATE May 2019
VINIFICATION Crushed & Free Juice Drained	HARVEST DATE September 5, 2017
FINAL ANALYSIS alcohol: 12.5%	TOTAL PRODUCTION 140 cases
VATTING/FERMENTATION Fermented in second-fill and neutral 500L French Puncheon	

AT THE WINERY

We kept 9 unique lots from our tiny Chenin Blanc harvest separate for later evaluation. Cuvée August represents his favorite lot – the free run juice. Fermented and aged in once-used and neutral 500L Puncheons the wine was only racked to bottling tank in June of 2018 to keep a reductive, age-worthy character.

Bottled without added Sulfur or other additions.

SENSORY

Dense and packed with lemon curd and yuzu zest over a backbone of flinty minerals. This is a white wine built to impress when young and develop over decades. Its energy takes youthful form in a zippy tanginess woven within the power and richness.

Because our Chenin Blanc program is so new, we are not yet sure if we will make a Cuvée August every vintage. However, because this magical lot sprang forth in my son August's birth year, we couldn't help bottle this special wine for him to enjoy in 20-30 years. Unfortunately, that means we will be keeping a lot of it for him, lucky little guy!