



## **2019 Estate Vineyard, Sauvignon Blanc Ribbon Ridge AVA**

**Location:** Ribbon Ridge is a sub-AVA of the Willamette Valley, that sits 22 miles southwest of Portland, 4 miles northwest of Dundee and 40 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. Ribbon Ridge is just a small section of the Chehalem Mountains AVA.

**Climate:** Protected by geographical features to the north, south and west, Ribbon Ridge's grape-growing hillsides are slightly warmer and drier when compared to the adjacent valley floors. Ribbon Ridge's moderate climate is well suited for early grape growth in the spring, consistent and even ripening over the summer and a long, full maturing season in the fall.

**Soils:** The Ribbon Ridge region contains primarily sedimentary soils that are younger, finer and more uniform than the alluvial sedimentary and volcanic soils of neighboring regions. These moderately deep, well-drained silty-clay loam soils are part of the Willakenzie soil series and are of low fertility and ideal for growing high-quality wine grapes.

**Topography:** Geographically, Ribbon Ridge is a 3.5-mile long by 1.75-mile wide ridge that extends from the Chehalem Mountains. The ridge rises 683 feet from the Chehalem Valley floor, giving it an island-like appearance.

**Site Characteristics:** Our Estate Vineyard is the only vineyard in Ribbon Ridge with plantings of Sauvignon Blanc. Granted, there are only around 30 vineyards in the AVA and there is little Sauvignon Blanc planted in the entire Willamette Valley, however the sandy marine soils and slightly cooler nature of this appellation are perfect growing conditions for Sauvignon Blanc. Our section is planted down the steep south slope. Original plantings were done in 1990 (we do not know which clone) and subsequent plantings were done to fill out the block in 2001 and 2002.

**Winemaking and Notes:** The oldest section of the Sauvignon Blanc in our Estate Vineyard is 30 years in vine age. We believe these are the oldest Sauvignon Blanc vines left in the Willamette Valley. The fruit that comes from these vines has developed over the years, producing unique characteristics making it a special stand out wine. To further accentuate the differences between our Willamette Valley bottling and the Estate Vineyard bottling, 100% of the old-vine Estate Sauvignon Blanc is fermented and goes through elevage in Acacia wood puncheons. In 2019, two of the five puncheons were new, 2 were once-used while the other one was twice used. The Acacia wood provides greater and rounder texture and mouthfeel, much like the way an oak barrel does with Pinot Noir. The Acacia wood accentuates natural floral aromatics and plays off any "lemony" flavors by concentrating them towards a lemon meringue pie flavor profile.

The Estate Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc is a dense, rich and more tropical version of Sauvignon Blanc than one would generally find in the universe of this grape. The rich textural aspects of this wine are enriched by the unique marine sedimentary soil found in our Estate Vineyard. The old vines have the natural proclivity to pick up on the inherent minerality in the soil and water on the property. This minerality offsets Sauvignon Blanc's general fruit driven tone making for a wine with both rich high fruit tones and crystalline notes that fill out the back of the wine.

The old vine fruit was picked in the first part of October in perfect conditions. It was immediately pressed, allowed to settle, racked and inoculated with a yeast specifically designed for aromatic white wines. The wine was fermented and bottled after about six months prior to malolactic fermentation finishing. Due to this, the wine was sterile filtered prior to bottling.

The Estate Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc has many different flavor elements to incorporate into its overall rich texture. It is more eclectic and stylistically in-line with wines from Sancerre. Much as our Estate Vineyard, Old Vine Pinot Noir brings the inherent deep-soil minerality to bear in the mid-palate this old section of Sauvignon Blanc infuses the juice with a transparent quality that creates a significantly more powerful and different bottling than the Willamette Valley.

Oregon is rightly known for what its Pinot Noir does each vintage. While the 2019 vintage is going to be a very nice vintage for the state's best known grape, it is quite possible that this is the first vintage in the history of Oregon that will be known for the quality of its white wines. Seemingly across the board of white varieties the quality, intensity and purity is extremely high. Wines are bright, fresh, nuanced, balanced and just plain delicious. We produced only 245 cases of this wine.