



2004 Blanc de Blancs

The **2004 Blanc de Blancs** is the most distinctive of our Sparklings as it is both refreshing and shows a touch of Chardonnay character; a great food wine. Made from 100% chardonnay and aged four plus years on the yeast, it will, like all of our Blanc de Blancs improve with time on the cork. The 2003 Blanc de Blancs was awarded 4 stars by the Santa Rosa Press Democrat while the 2002 Blanc de Blancs earned a 95 from The Wine Enthusiast and was ranked 22 on their Top 100 wines of 2008.

Technical Data

Appellation: Green Valley of Russian River Valley

Blend: 100% Chardonnay

Alcohol: 13.5% v/v

Acidity: .86 g/100ml

Residual Sugar: 0.48 g/100ml

pH: 2.93

Malolactic Fermentation: None

Barrels: 40% barrel fermented in older french oak

Harvest Dates: August 20-24 2004

Date Bottled: June 6 2005

Release Date: April 2009

Total Production: 1292 Cases

Suggested Retail Price: \$38.00

Winemaking: In blending this wine we chose four different lots of Chardonnay, each bringing something distinctive to the blend. Hand harvested in the chill of early morning, our Chardonnay is gently pressed as whole clusters. The juice slowly ferments in stainless steel tanks at 62° to 65° f, retaining the bright aromas and flavors in the wine. The dosage for the 2004 Blanc de Blancs is a mere 4ml Special LEX.

Precision Winegrowing: At Iron Horse "Estate Bottled" means that the winemaking begins in the vineyard. Our location in Green Valley represents the very best soil, climate and aspects for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Our goal is to grow the best winegrapes we should be growing through what we call "precision winegrowing." All pruning, canopy management, irrigation and cover crop decisions are determined on a block-by-block (and sometimes even vine-by-vine) basis, considering both the vintage at hand and the long-term needs of the land.

For Sparkling and Still Wine, Precision Harvesting is Key: Our only rule is to make the best wines we can. We wait until harvest to decide sparkling or still, as the only difference is the brix level (or the amount of sugar in the grapes, less for sparklings, more for still). Then winemaker David Munksgard considers berry size (bigger is better for sparklings, smaller for still), the health of the canopy, clone selection, even small details such as the relative dampness of the cover crop can make a difference. If necessary, parts of the same block may be picked on different days.

Tasting Notes & Food Pairings: On the nose: baker's yeast, pineapple and a touch of minerality (typical with UCD clone 4 Chardonnays). In the mouth: structured acidity, orange and lime with some minerality at the finish. Match with anything Japanese, sushi and sashimi, teriyaki and even Shabu-Shabu, or anything made with Thai spices; and obviously, oysters and Dungeness crab (Stone crab is good too).



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