



CHATEAU MONTELENA
ESTABLISHED 1882

2020 Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc

Notes from the Winemaker, Matt Crafton

INTRODUCTION

This Sauvignon Blanc delivers. Yields were low and the vintage was creatively challenging, but our small field blend of heritage clones and new selections has come through once again. *Resilience* seems to be the aspirational virtue tied to 2020, which reflects the character and nature of this 40-year-old vineyard as it continues to produce outstanding quality with little fanfare.

VINTAGE WEATHER

Budbreak occurred on time despite a relatively dry, mild winter. However, late spring rains in May galvanized growth heading into summer. By July, the lighter-than-average crop was ripening quickly portending an early harvest, but the late-August wildfires and the ensuing smoke put an early end to a very promising vintage. Thankfully, we were able to harvest the Sauvignon Blanc without any exposure.

NOSE

Fresh grapefruit, orange blossom and honeysuckle are the stars of this incredibly floral wine. In true varietal character, aromas of boxwood and guava emerge over time along with subtle toast from time in barrel.

PALATE

Finely textured from the Semillon but loaded with pineapple and chamomile, the palate incorporates ample minerality and fresh lemon with bright acid.

FINISH

Toasty and textured, the finish is broad and creamy, but at the same time, laser focused with white peach and passionfruit. It's the length that's most impressive, which will continue to develop over time.

Technical Information

HARVEST DATES

August 24

ALCOHOL

13.9%

BLEND

83% Sauvignon Blanc

17% Semillon

BARREL AGING

6 months in French oak and Acacia

BOTTLING DATE

March 2021

WINEMAKER

Matt Crafton