

2009 grenache blanc ■ edna valley

TASTING NOTES

VARIETAL BACKGROUND

A mutation of the red version of Grenache, Grenache Blanc is believed to have originated in the province of Aragon in northern Spain. Plantings later spread throughout the rest of Spain, Europe and into the Mediterranean, including what is modern day Sardinia. After the phylloxera epidemic in the late 19th century, many vineyards in Rioja and France were replanted to Grenache, as well as some to Grenache Blanc.

Grenache Blanc is commonly used as a blender in the Old World. It is a major component in the white wines of the Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Côtes du Rhône AOCs, and is often blended with Roussanne, and even some red wines. In fact, up to 10% Grenache Blanc is permitted to be blended into the red wines of the Côtes du Rhône Villages AOC. Almost half of all Grenache Blanc plantings are in the Roussillon region; here it is blended with Roussanne, Marsanne, Viognier and Rolle. In Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Grenache Blanc is most often blended with Roussanne, Picpoul, and Clairette.

It is known as Garnacha Blanca in Spain, where it is widely planted in regions including Navarra, Terra Alta, Alella, Aragon, and the Priorat. It is legally permitted in the white wines of Rioja.

SIP™ CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE

The Niven family's two estate vineyards, Paragon and Firepeak, have earned the Sustainability in Practice (SIP™) Vineyard Certification. Managed by their Pacific Vineyard Company, the family has ensured that these vineyards have historically been farmed in a careful and responsible manner, taking into account all facets of the surrounding environment. Certification proves their collective commitment to environmental stewardship, economic viability, and equitable treatment of employees. A project of the Central Coast Vineyard Team, SIP™ provides a comprehensive and verifiable method to authenticate a vineyard's attention to integrated farming practices.

TANGENT GRENACHE BLANC

A small block on the estate Paragon Vineyard was planted to Grenache Blanc in 2005. Benefiting from the cool influence of the Pacific Ocean only four miles to the west, this vineyard is afforded one of the longest growing seasons in the state. Soils here are a mixture of volcanic, clay loam and rocky marine sediment, offering few nutrients. The temperate climate brings extended hang time, and the soils cause the vines to stress and strain as they grow. These two factors ultimately culminate in fully ripe, concentrated fruit that bursts with flavor.

TASTING NOTES FROM WINEMAKER CHRISTIAN ROGUENANT

"This Grenache Blanc is surprisingly rich, viscous, and full-bodied, especially for a white wine! It has nice minerality, and is chalky and crisp. Cantaloupe and honeydew are the predominant flavors, and it shows off a hint of caramel that is balanced by high acidity. This wine is great with spicy Thai food."



WINE STATISTICS

Appellation	Edna Valley
Vineyard	Paragon Vineyard
Vineyard Certification	SIP™ Certified Sustainable
Tons per acre	3.95
Harvest date	October 20, 2009
Average Brix at harvest	24.6 degrees
Yeast	GRE
Fermentation	In stainless steel at 55 degrees for 55 days
Barrel contact	Zero
% ML	Zero
Alcohol	14.1%
Acid @ bottling	6.23 g/l
pH @ bottling	3.15
RS @ bottling	None
Bottling date	March 25, 2010
Closure	Screwcap
Cases made	559
Suggested Retail	\$17.00