

Opolo

2022 WILLOW BLANC

WILLOW CREEK DISTRICT | PASO ROBLES

Willow Blanc is Opolo's reserve Rhône-style blend of Viognier and Roussanne, crafted with an emphasis on extended skin contact to create a wine of unique aromatic and textural complexity. The 2022 vintage marks the first-ever Willow Blanc sourced wholly from our estate vineyards in the Willow Creek District.

VINEYARDS

The 2022 Willow Blanc comes from two of our Willow Creek District estates—our original Quinn West Vineyard (Roussanne) and the contiguous To The Moon Vineyard (Viognier). Situated in the westside coastal mountains, the Willow Creek District benefits from a prevailing marine influence that helps our Viognier and Roussanne fruit achieve elegant flavors and abundant varietal character. Additionally, our estates' limestone-rich soils help preserve textural freshness and expression.

WINEMAKING

After harvesting, 82 percent of the fruit was destemmed and underwent extended skin contact for up to five hours, with each lot monitored hourly until the desired qualities were achieved. Winemakers James Schreiner and Skye Bruce embraced this method to boost the aromatics and enhance the wine's volume. At the conclusion of skin contact, each lot was pressed and settled, and the juice was fermented in French oak barrels as well as barrels composed of French oak staves and acacia wood heads—chosen for the acacia wood's ability to augment the wine's natural lively character. The lees were stirred weekly up to the four-month mark, bringing added textural quality to the wine. The remainder of the wine was fermented and initially aged in stainless steel to ensure an undercurrent of bright crispness. The final blend was assembled in December following harvest, then returned to barrels for the duration of aging, which spanned a total of 19 months.

WINEMAKERS' TASTING NOTES

The 2022 Willow Blanc is fresh and assertive with aromas of melon, peach, honeycomb, pear, white flower and green herb. Crunchy acidity and fleshy phenolic textures flood the mouth with pineapple, citrus, honeydew and vanilla. The finish is punchy and electric with lingering notes of Roussanne-derived viscosity.



Composition

Viognier 69%, Roussanne 31%

Appellation

Willow Creek District, Paso Robles

Aging

19 Months in French Oak & Acacia Barrels (80% new)

Analysis

TA .60 pH 3.24 Alcohol 14.1% Cases Produced 291