

2015 Sonoma County
Venus Roussanne / Viognier

Even with a modest 13.1% alcohol, the 2015 Venus is consistent with the theme of the vintage, and packs a very floral and flavored wine into a very small package. 2015 produced a truly beautiful vintage for Roussanne, which makes up 97.5% of the Venus blend, while Viognier accounts for the remaining 2.5% of the blend. We were able to ripen the fruit slowly, which allowed for intense flavor development with a rather low potential alcohol. In fact, the Roussanne from Bennett Valley was the last to be picked in 2015, coming in 10 days after our last red lot.

As with the previous two vintages, the Roussanne is now sourced from two vineyards: Dry Stack Vineyard, which has been in the Donelan portfolio since our inception, and now the Vivio Vineyard, located across the street from Dry Stack. Although the distance between the vineyards is nominal, the two sites produce very different styles of Roussanne, which results in additional depth of flavor. Dry Stack makes up 60% of the Roussanne, and provides a full mid-palate with a flavor spectrum that hovers between beeswax, honeysuckle and Parmigiano-Reggiano. The Vivio Roussanne provides the remaining 40%, and contributes flavors of kumquat and white peach with a more delicate mouth-feel, freshness, and a linear finish.

The two Roussanne sites provide a strong base for the figurative icing on the cake, our beloved Kobler Viognier. The 2.5% of Viognier provides the bolt of electricity needed to bring this wine to life. We are thrilled with the finished blend and know that fans of Roussanne will be excited with this edition of Venus.

Cellar Notes:

Percentage New Oak

None

Composition

97.5% Roussanne, 2.5% Viognier

Barrel Aging

11 months

Alcohol

13.1%

Bottling Date

August 26, 2016

Production

170 cases

~Native Ferment/Native ML

