



NORTHSTAR

Stella Blanca 2016 Columbia Valley

Vintage

The 2016 vintage experienced the best of both worlds with a hot spring and early summer. A cooler than normal end of the ripening season allowed the wines to have ripeness, yet maintain freshness and elegance. The early dry and warm spring, combined with cooler temperatures in August and September, slowed down ripening and resulted in the longest harvest on record in Washington State (August 15-November 15). Overall, 2016 saw very favorable growing conditions, producing wines with nicely resolved tannins and maturity.

Vineyards

Diversity of vineyards and sub-appellations within the Columbia Valley are Northstar's hallmarks. Fruit is chosen from the very best possible sources throughout the Columbia Valley. The Northstar team works closely with each grower to achieve specific fruit quality and yield parameters. The majority of the Semillon comes from the oldest block at Vineyard 10, established in 1978 in the Horse Heaven Hills AVA. In addition, the 2016 Stella Blanca has Sauvignon Blanc and Muscadelle du Bordelais from our registered mother block at Canoe Ridge. The Muscadelle du Bordelais is an extremely rare varietal for Washington State.

Winemaking

After a gentle pressing, the juice was inoculated with *Cotes de Blanc* yeasts to initiate fermentation. The juice was transferred to 100% French oak barrels of which 20% were new oak. Barrel fermentation in the cool temperature *Petit Chai* allowed the wine to develop slowly. The wine was aged *sur lie* for 3 months in the barrel, with weekly stirrings for the desired mouth feel and aromatics.

Tasting notes

"The 2016 Stella Blanca is a refreshing wine that offers notes of apple, grapefruit, and lime zest. On the creamy palate is a balance of lemon and hints of vanilla and graham cracker, giving way to a long crisp smooth finish. This wine pairs well with grilled chicken, seafood, and spicy foods. Enjoy!" - David "Merf" Merfeld, Winemaker

Technical Data

Total Acidity 0.64 g/100ml

pH 3.27

Alcohol: 13.2%

Blend: 68% Semillon, 16% Sauvignon Blanc, 16% Muscadelle

Cases Produced 459