



# FLANAGAN

## 2021 VIOGNIER

APPELLATION	Bennett Valley
HARVEST	September 20th, 2021
pH	3.44
TA	6.27
ABV	13.7%
CASES	215
BARREL REGIMEN	Barrel fermented and then aged in Atelier barrels <i>light toast</i> with 22% new barrels
RELEASE DATE	July 2022



### PRODUCTION NOTES

Spring 2021 was an extremely dry. There was little rain that winter and we moved back into drought conditions by early spring. On 4/19/2021 the water from Lake Mendocino was shut off at our Redwood Valley Grape Ranch (and remains shut off as of 8/9/22). No water was made available for Agriculture. The lack of soil moisture led to weak shoot growth and poor fruit set. Coastal sites with fog and general ambient moisture did better. Inland vineyards were the most affected. Overall the crop in Sonoma County was about 15% below normal. Coming on the heels of the total disaster of 2020 (which had two major fires in the middle of the growing season) this left wineries scrambling to find fruit. The 2021 vintage is excellent but small.

Our Viognier is made in a fresher style with little new oak. The fermentation in neutral barrels is more directed at texture development than at an oak flavor profile. The key to making great Viognier is to source from top sites, to farm for balance, and to time harvest correctly. Viognier has a narrow window for picking where the flavors are developed and the acidity is still vibrant.

### TASTING NOTES

Our intention with our Viognier is to make it in a fresher style. That means harvesting it sooner so that we retain the brightness in the wine, and, using minimal new oak. The fermentation in neutral barrels is more directed at texture development than at an oak flavor profile. The key to making great Viognier is to source from a top site, to farm for balance, and to time the harvest correctly. Viognier has a narrow window for picking where the flavors are developed and the acidity is still vibrant. Viognier was originally grown in the Rhone village of Condrieu.

The nose displays restrained notes of white peach blossom, orange blossom, and honeysuckle. On the palate there are notes of Apricot, Almond extract, and ripe citrus. This vintage shows more of the citrus notes than the 2019 did and is, perhaps, the most elegant vintage of Viognier that we have released to date. (Our first vintage of Viognier was 2014). This wine has a distinctive mineral, Limestone finish beautiful mouthfeel.

In 2021 we took all of the fruit from the 2 acre vineyard in Bennett Valley where we source our Viognier, so, despite lower crop yields we maintained our production at about 180 cases. This wine is a reminder that Bennett Valley is a great place to grow Rhone Varieties.

This is a quintessential Viognier and a lovely example of what the grape can do in California when it is well farmed, not over-ripe, and made in a balanced way.