



# FLANAGAN

## 2022 VIOGNIER

APPELLATION	Bennett Valley
HARVEST	September 13th, 2022
pH	3.5
TA	5.76
ABV	14%
CASES	122
BARREL REGIMEN	Barrel fermented and then aged in Atelier and Millarf barrels <i>light toast</i> with 40% new barrels
RELEASE DATE	October 2023



### PRODUCTION NOTES

The 2022 vintage saw a continuation of the severe drought that started in 2021. On 4/19/2021 the water from Lake Mendocino was shut off and remained shut off until 10/9/22. No water at all was made available for Agriculture from the lake. The use of many other water sources was either restricted or completely prohibited. The ongoing lack of soil moisture led to a second year of weak shoot growth and poor fruit set. Overall, the crop in North Coast was about 10% below normal. After the total disaster of 2020 (which had two major fires in the middle of the growing season) and the small 2021 harvest, wineries continued to struggle to find fruit. The lack of supply of grapes was partially offset by a drop in consumption starting in the second half of 2022. The 2022 vintage produced another small crop of high-quality grapes.

Our intention with 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 and is now grown all over the world. It finds its best expression in cooler sites with lower vigor soils.

### TASTING NOTES

The nose displays restrained notes of White peach blossom, Almond blossom, and Jasmine. On the palate there are stone fruit notes of Peach and Apricot, with Almond extract on the finish. The ripeness and concentration of this wine reflects the low yields and riper profile of the 2022 vintage. It continues to be Kit's favorite wine and Kit is involved with the blending of this wine each year.

In 2022 we produced 122 cases of Viognier. This wine is another reminder that Bennett Valley is a great place to grow Rhone Varieties.

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