

2019 Sonoma County
Venus Roussanne / Viognier

The hallmark characteristic of the Bennett Valley Roussanne used in this blend is extremely slow ripening, with harvests consistently falling into mid-October. We attribute the intensity on the nose to the fruit's time on the vine, maturing slowly, with complex flavors evolving at lower than normal equilibrium.

Since 2003, the Roussanne for this elegant blend has come from two distinct blocks from Dry Stack Vineyard, both planted exclusively for Donelan Family Wines. 30% of the blend comes from a small, quarter acre block we refer to as The Rocky Block with the balance of the Roussanne coming from an East-facing slope. The power and weighty mouthfeel combined with the fresh stone fruit from the sloped block make for a well balanced wine.

2019 Venus is tight as a drum in its youth. Reduction, flintiness, burnt match, and pie crust fill the nose. The palate plays very Old World. This wine is being modest right now with its fruit and needs time to unfold, but lemon rind and lanolin notes are already showing like that of a great Chenin. It will unfold beautifully in the next 8 years.

Cellar Notes:

Percentage New Oak

None

Barrel Aging

10 months

Bottling Date

July 2020

~Native Ferment/Native ML

Composition

95% Roussanne, 5% Viognier

Alcohol

14.4%

Production

174 cases

Clones

Suitecase

