

2008 Highflyer Grenache Blanc

Napa Valley / Somerston Vineyards

Highflyer

At Highflyer, we work with small, family-owned, benchmark vineyards throughout California where terroir and variety are in perfect alignment. We harvest fruit from the Santa Lucia Highlands, Santa Maria Valley, Sonoma Valley, Santa Barbara and Napa Valley to produce wines that are thought-provoking, varietally and regionally accurate and delicious. Our name references our winemaker/owner Craig Becker's other great passion in life: aviation. As a private pilot Craig can fly to a distant region, walk the site, meet with the vineyard management team to ensure our strict farming protocols are being followed and still be home in time for dinner.

Vineyards

Somerston Vineyards are due east of Rutherford high in the eastern mountains of Napa Valley. The 1680 acre ranch is planted between 900 and 2,400 feet above sea level. This Grenache Blanc is planted comes from a small 2.7 acre block at an elevation of 1100 feet planted in fractured shale soils.

Weather

The 2008 growing season began with a hard April frost followed by moderately warm temperatures offering perfect conditions during flowering. We had a couple heat spikes midsummer followed by excellent conditions throughout the mid to late summer months. Late September temperatures were cool followed by a warm up in early October giving us ideal ripening at harvest.

Winemaking

In 2008 we produced only 28 barrels. We aged 95% in stainless steel and 5% in new French oak for 6 months. It is vibrant, with melon and citrus leading to layered nectarine, lime and spice flavors that blend crisp acidity with a creamy texture.

Highflyer

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BRIX AT HARVEST: 26.5		APPELLATION: NAPA VALLEY	
TA: 0.64 G/100 ML	PRODUCTION: 720 CASES	RS: 0.10 G/100 ML	PH: 3.9
<i>Craig Becker</i> WINEMAKER / PILOT		ALCOHOL: 13.9%	

