



Highflyer

Every grape variety has specific climate and soil requirements to produce great wine. 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 Lucia Highlands, Santa Maria Valley, Clements Hills (Lodi), Sonoma, Santa Barbara and Napa Valley to produce wines that are fruit-forward, thought-provoking, varietally and regionally accurate and delicious. Our name references our winemaker/owner Craig Austin'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.

The Vineyard

The Borra family has farmed grapes in California for more than a century. Their Gill Creek Ranch Vineyard is located in the Clements Hills sub-appellation of the Lodi AVA. Set along the north bank of the Mokelumne River and the Highland Bluff, it bears a striking resemblance to France's Rhone Valley. The Borra's 10.3 acres of Viognier were planted in 1999 and feature 7x5 spacing, VSP cane pruned and 1,244 vines/acre.

The Vintage

The 2007 season began with a cold, dry winter followed by a mild and dry spring. Except for a hot spell just before harvest the summer was marked by pleasant temperatures and no rainfall. The cool, arid conditions resulted in small, loose clusters of tiny, intensely-flavored berries with excellent sugar, acid and pH levels.

Winemaker thoughts

The bouquet opens with freshly picked apricots and white flowers. The palate adds lychee, white peaches and lime peel to the mix. The texture is lush and concentrated and backed by focused natural acidity. The finish is marked by a strong impression of minerality. This Viognier is intense, balanced, refreshing and multifaceted.

Winemaker / Pilot: Craig Austin Becker

Appellation: Clements Hills / Lodi

Brix at Harvest: 27.5

TA: 0.67 g/100 ml

PH: 3.83

Alcohol: 15.1%

RS: 0.10 g/100 ml

Production: 985 cases