

Racines,
Grand Reserve Sparkling NV
California, USA

Racines



Grape Varieties	100% Chardonnay
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	12.5%
Residual Sugar	4.5g/L
Wine pH	3.05
Bottle Sizes	75cl, 150cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan

PRODUCER

Racines is a collaboration between Etienne de Montille of Domaine de Montille in Volnay, and his Californian-born winemaker Brian Sieve. The story of this dynamic project started in 2016 when Etienne and Brian set off on a month's excursion to California. Their aim was to discover the Golden State's great Chardonnay and Pinot Noir producers and to get to know its innumerable appellations. After hundreds of tastings and encounters, they were eventually taken in by the promise of Santa Barbara County. Etienne and Brian were especially struck by the precise and nuanced character of the wines from vineyards in the Santa Rita Hills and Santa Maria Valley. Together, they sought out highly-coveted sites in the Santa Rita Hills. The combination of world-famous vineyards and world-class winemaking makes Racines one of the most exciting projects we have come across.

VINEYARDS

This wine is sourced from three different vineyards, on varying soil types. The Wenzlau vineyard is home to Sorento Loam soil, producing tight, smoky wines with good tension and elegance. The Sanford & Benedict vineyard has Gazas Clay Loam soil, which adds lemon and floral notes, as well as good salinity. Finally, the Bentrack Vineyard hosts Tierra Sandy Loam soil, adding power, density and great length.

VINTAGE

2018 was a good vintage in Santa Barbara County, thanks to a long growing season and moderate temperatures throughout spring and summer. Temperatures during bud break and flowering were cool, followed by a hot July and a normal-to-cool ripening period during August and September. The quality of the fruit was excellent, with good acidity and depth of flavour.

VINIFICATION

The grapes were manually harvested and pressed as whole bunches, using a soft and slow pressing. The wine was aged in bottle for 30 months on lees, with no fining or filtration. The 2018 vintage base also includes 15% reserve from the 2017 harvest. Produced using the traditional method, this wine was bottled in May 2019, and disgorged in November 2021.

TASTING NOTES

A pale, lemon colour with a delicate mousse. This wine exudes freshness and pure fruit on the nose, showing rich and creamy notes thanks to the minerality of Santa Rita Hills Chardonnay. A good, mid-palate depth and a long finish.