

2010 GRENACHE BLANC

SOMERSTON VINEYARDS



Highflyer

At Highflyer, we work with small, family-owned, benchmark vineyards throughout California where terroir and varietal are in perfect alignment. We harvest fruit from the Santa Lucia Highlands, Santa Maria Valley, Bennett Valley, Santa Ynez and Napa Valley to produce wines that are thought provoking, varied, regionally accurate and delicious. The name "Highflyer" 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 and meet with the vineyard management team to ensure that our strict farming protocols are being followed.

Grape

"Grenache Blanc" is a white grape variety that is related to the "Grenache" red grape. Its wines are characterized by rich yet refreshing qualities, with citrus notes, excellently weighted middle palate, and complex floral nuances.

Vineyard

Somerston Vineyards is a 1628-acre property with 6 acres planted to Grenache Blanc vines. Somerston's vineyard elevations range from 850 to 2400 feet. The 2010 Grenache Blanc comes from a small 2.7 acre block at an elevation of 1100 feet, planted in fractured shale soils.

Weather

The 2010 growing season was slightly cooler than normal and required patience to successfully ripen the fruit to maturity. We had cool summer temperatures with a couple of heat spikes followed by below average temperatures in the late summer months. Early September warmed up enough to allow our Grenache Blanc to fully ripen with exceptional flavors and a crisp acid profile.

Winemaker Notes

In 2010 we produced only 28 barrels of Grenache Blanc. 90% of the Grenache Blanc was aged in stainless steel and 10% in used French oak for 6 months. This wine is vibrant, with mineral and citrus leading to layered nectarine, lime and spring herb flavors blending crisp acidity with a soft texture.

Craig Becker, Winemaker / Pilot



APPELLATION:	NAPA VALLEY
BRIX AT HARVEST:	24.8
TA:	6.8 G/L
PH:	3.48
ALCOHOL:	14.5%
PRODUCTION:	700 CASES