



R & B Cellars 2012 Sauvignon Blanc “Serenade in Blanc” North Coast

Vineyards:	80% Lake County 20% Mendocino
Composition:	100% Sauvignon Blanc
Bottled:	October 2013
Released:	November 2013
Production:	418 Cases
Aging Process:	80% Steel Tank 20% Neutral Oak

Vineyards

We have found over the years that oftentimes the best blend of a certain varietal will be better with a mix of regions, and also that blending can add significantly to the complexity of the final wine. This superb wine is a combination of Sauvignon Blanc from two excellent regions of California, each bringing its own distinct characteristic to the blend.

The Wine

In order to create a wine with richness and complexity yet still fruit driven and varietally accurate, we blended 2010 Lake County Sauvignon Blanc that was fermented in stainless steel with 2010 Mendocino Sauvignon Blanc that was barrel fermented. The combination of these two areas yielded a wine with exceptional varietal character and flavor. The oak program on the two wines was very different. The Lake County Sauvignon Blanc was completely tank fermented to maintain crisp citrus tones. The Mendocino lot received 80% neutral oak to add structure, complexity and creaminess. The wine was gently cross flow filtered, making the wine eminently drinkable upon release.

Winemaker's Comments

The vibrant, crisp Ruby Grapefruit from the Lake County combines with the exotic citrus tones of Mandarin and Blood Oranges from the Mendocino fruit. The resulting wine is complex yet elegant. The marriage of flavors is like a tropical fruit tart with good acidity and fleshy citrus flavors all over a layer of “crème patissiere.” The combination of vineyards and appellations also brings out a wonderful mineral character typical of Sancerre from France. The combination of the tank-fermented wine with the barrel-fermented wine maintains a great balance in both the nose and mouth between the crisp, exotic tropical citrus fruit and the creamy character of the barrel fermented wines. This is my favorite style of Sauvignon Blanc. You can sip it by itself or match it with a myriad of lighter fare.