

# 2020 Amphitheater Block Chardonnay



## THE VINTAGE

The 2020 growing season was cooler, similar to that of the 2019 vintage. Wild fires ravaged much of California that vintage, though Neely was lucky enough to have picked all of our Chardonnay blocks before the smoke was able to infiltrate the fruit.

**VINTAGE:** 2020

**PICK DATE:** 9/9/2020

**APPELLATION:** SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS AVA

**ALC/VOL:** 14.2%

**PRODUCTION:** 136 CASES

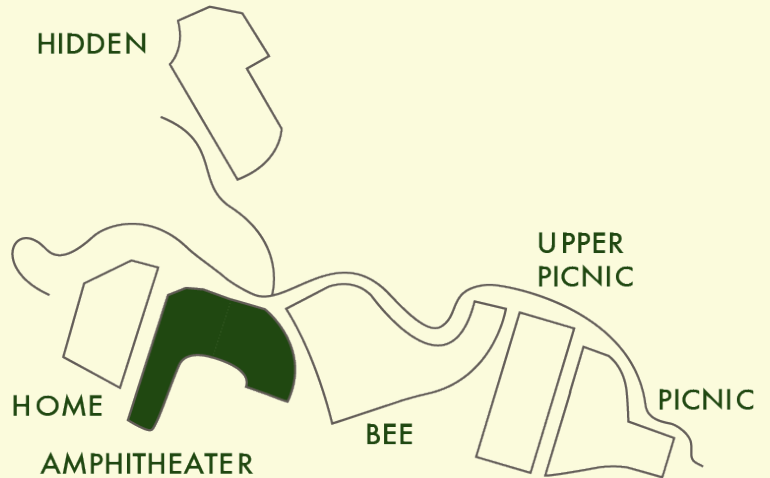
**CLONE:** WENTE CLONE, OWN ROOTED

**DATE PLANTED:** 1981

**FERMENTATION:** IN BARREL, PARTIAL MLF

**ÉLEVAGE:** 13.8% NEW FRENCH OAK, 10 MO

**WINEMAKER:** SHALINI SEKHAR



## THE WINEMAKING

Fruit is picked at first light to optimize acidity and flavor profile. After field-sorting, the fruit is whole cluster pressed, and the juice settled for 24 hours before racking to barrel to be fermented. During the cellaring months the wine is monitored, with minimal intervention to allow its natural terroir to shine. After 10 months of barrel aging, the wines are bottled without filtration to capture the delicate flavors and aromas unique to each block.

## THE ÉLEVAGE

2020 Amphitheater Block was fermented and aged in barrel. These barrels came from the French cooperages Tonnellerie Remond, Tonnellerie Ô, Sirugue, and François Frères. 1 of 7 barrels was new oak.

## AWARDS & ACCOLADES

92 pts, *Purely Domestic Wine Report*



# Amphitheater Block

**AVA:** SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

**CLONE:** WENTE CLONE

**ROOTSTOCK:** OWN ROOTED

**PLANTING DATE:** 1981

**ACRES:** 2

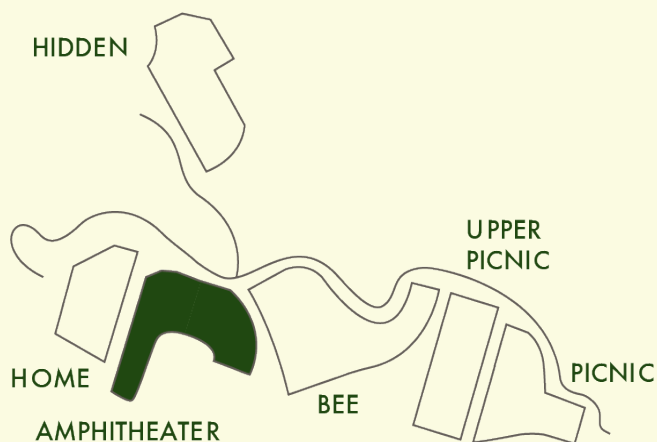
**VINE COUNT:** 1100

**ELEVATION:** 780 TO 735 FT

**DIRECTIONAL PLACEMENT:** SOUTH-FACING

**SOIL COMPOSITION:** CLAY LOAM

**TRELLISING:** QUADRILATERAL CORDONS



## ABOUT AMPHITHEATER BLOCK

Amphitheater Block is one of three historic chardonnay blocks at Spring Ridge Vineyard. Amphitheater block spans between 780 to 735 feet above sea level. This block is 2 acres in size. Planted in 1981, Amphitheater Block was the second block established at Spring Ridge Vineyard. This vineyard block has a natural half bowl shape from which its name derives. The vines are Wente clone and own rooted.

Amphitheater Block consists of a soil blend of 43% sand, 28% silt, and 29% clay.

## ABOUT SPRING RIDGE VINEYARD

Spring Ridge Vineyard sits on an east-facing ridge in the Santa Cruz mountains. The ridge ascends from 500 to 1700 feet above sea level. The maritime climate of the San Francisco Bay offers cool, crisp mornings and warm, sunny afternoons creating perfect conditions for growing chardonnay and pinot noir. The soil at Spring Ridge Vineyard consists of sedimentary rock, 1 to 3 million years old, at a shallow and mid level depth, perfect for the expression of our grapes. We strive to protect and nurture the entire ecological community of Spring Ridge Vineyard, and are dedicated to steward and replenish the land we inhabit.