

2021 Plum Block 'Leoncita' Chardonnay

VINTAGE: 2021

PICK DATE: 9/16/2021

APPELLATION: SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS AVA

ALC/VOL: 12.9%

PRODUCTION: 62 CASES

CLONE: CLONE 72 ON 101-14 ROOTSTOCK

YEAR PLANTED: 2017

FERMENTATION: SS TANK, FULL MLF

ÉLEVAGE: NEUTRAL OAK BARRELS, 9 MO

WINEMAKER: SHALINI SEKHAR



THE VINTAGE

The 2021 growing season produced lighter-bodied and elegantly flavored wines. All blocks were picked between September 11th and September 21st. Harvest 2021 saw the very first pick of our Block Verde Grüner Veltliner.



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 stainless steel tank. The wine is fermented in tank and then transferred to neutral barrels. During the cellaring months the wine is monitored with minimal intervention to allow its natural terroir to shine. After 9 months of aging, the wine is bottled without filtration to capture the delicate flavors and aromas unique to each block.

THE ÉLEVAGE

2021 Plum Block was aged in barrel. These barrels came from the French cooperages François Frères and Sirugue. Both barrels used were neutral oak.

THE VINEYARD

Plum block was planted in the meadow by the tasting room in 2017. The first fruit from this block was harvested in 2019. Plum block is approximately 2 acres, spanning between 530 to 540 feet of elevation. 2021 saw approximately 4.4 tons picked.

Leoncita Block



AVA: SAN FRANCISCO BAY AVA

CLONE: CLONE 72 (WENTE)

ROOTSTOCK: 101-14

PLANTING DATE: 2017

ACRES: 2

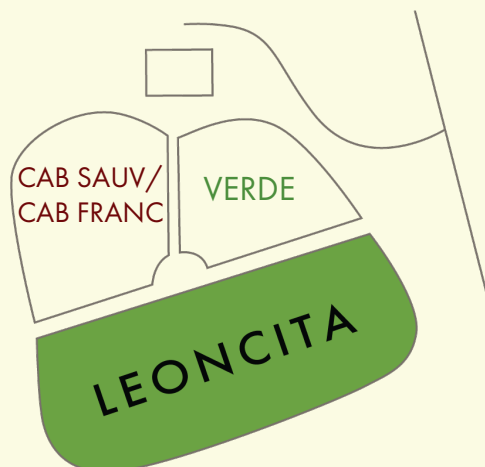
VINE COUNT: 2300

ELEVATION: 530 TO 540 FT

DIRECTIONAL PLACEMENT: NORTHWEST-FACING

SOIL COMPOSITION: CLAY LOAM

TRELLISING: VERTICAL SHOOT POSITIONED (VSP)



ABOUT LEONCITA BLOCK

Leoncita Block is the most recently planted chardonnay block at Neely Wine and the first block planted at Sausal Creek Vineyard. Planted in 2017, Leoncita Block produced its first crop in 2019. Spanning 2 acres, this is the largest of the three blocks at Sausal Creek Vineyard. Residing between 530 to 540 feet above sea level, Leoncita is fairly flat and more densely planted than the historic chardonnay blocks of Spring Ridge Vineyard, which helps to mitigate frost and reduce yields.

ABOUT SAUSAL CREEK VINEYARD

Sausal Creek Vineyard lies in the meadow adjacent to the Neely Wine tasting room at the bottom of the Neely property in Portola Valley. Straddling the border between Santa Cruz Mountains AVA and the San Francisco Bay AVA, this vineyard is home to Neely Wine's three newest blocks including Leoncita (chardonnay), Verde (grüner veltliner), and our currently unnamed cabernet sauvignon/cabernet franc block. Sausal Creek Vineyard is bordered to the south by Windy Hill Open Space Preserve, and to the north by its namesake Sausal Creek. These three blocks show great promise, and are already producing incredible fruit. We have great hope that Sausal Creek Vineyard will be as successful as Spring Ridge Vineyard has been for the past 40 years.