

2021 Plum Block 'Leoncita' Unoaked Chardonnay



THE VINTAGE

The 2021 growing season presented with heat around flowering, and even temperatures post-veraison which allowed the grapes to hang on the vine longer and develop more flavor before harvest. All vineyard blocks were picked within a 2-week period, from 9/11 to 9/18/2021.

VINTAGE: 2021

PICK DATE: 9/16/2021

APPELLATION: SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS AVA

ALC/VOL: 12.9%

PRODUCTION: 242 CASES

CLONE: CLONE 72 ON 101-14 ROOTSTOCK

YEAR PLANTED: 2017

FERMENTATION: STAINLESS STEEL, FULL MLF

ÉLEVAGE: STAINLESS STEEL TANK, 6 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 is racked to a stainless steel tank to ferment and age. During the cellaring months the wine is monitored, with minimal intervention to allow its natural terroir to shine. After 6 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 Unoaked was fermented and aged in stainless steel tank. Fermenting and aging in stainless steel allows for crisp and refreshing wine.

THE VINEYARD

Plum Block (now Leoncita 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

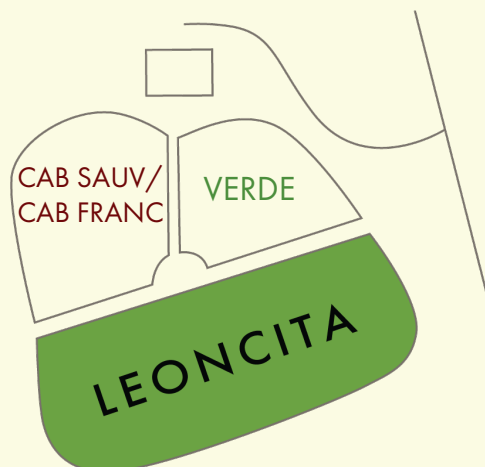
VINE COUNT: 2300

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 in order 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 high expectations that Sausal Creek Vineyard will be as successful as Spring Ridge Vineyard has been for the past 40 years.