

chateau TUMBLEWEED

2016 Arneis and Friends

Background:

This is our fourth vintage working with this special little planting of Arneis from Dragoon Mountain Vineyard. While we love working with this grape, this tiny block (only ~1/3 of an acre) doesn't yield a lot of fruit, and in tougher years, we barely get enough to make a single barrel of this wine. 2016 was especially rough, yielding only about 50 gallons and forcing us to blend just to fill a barrel! This wine still has the same great texture and classic Arneis pear/apple fruit accented with a little spice and aromatics from Verdelho and even more texture from the Viognier.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA

82% Arneis from Dragoon Mountain Vineyard. Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested on Aug. 23rd

9% Verdelho from Dragoon Mountain Vineyard. Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested on Aug. 15th

9% Viognier from Deep Sky Vineyard. Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested on Aug. 16th

Sugar at harvest: 23.0 Brix.

Cellar Notes:

Pressed whole-cluster.

Juice then settled 48 hours, racked, and inoculated with specially selected yeasts (R4600).

Fermented in one neutral French oak barrel at 65F for 12 days.

Malolactic fermentation inhibited.

Aging:

*Aged 6 months in one neutral French oak barrel (without lees stirring)
and one month in stainless steel.*

*This wine saw only minimal cold-stabilization, did NOT undergo heat
stabilization and is filtered, but un-fined.*

Stats:

pH: 3.45

TA: 5.9 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 13.3%

Drink within 1-2 years

Production: 24 cases

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

