

chateau TUMBLEWEED

2017 Pillsbury Vineyard Fort of Malvasia Bianca

Background:

We had a couple extra barrels of D.A Ranch Tannat kicking around the cellar in 2017 so we decided to distill it. We needed a little more brandy for a red port project we had started back in 2013, and we also had been toying with the goofy idea of making a white port. Our friends at O.H.S.O. Distillery turned those two barrels into 11 gallons of beautifully fruity, high-proof brandy bursting with characters reminiscent of the wine used to make it. Our next step was to beg Sam Pillsbury – who graciously and courageously obliged – to ripen some Malvasia Bianca a little longer than he might usually. We harvested the fruit at 28% sugar – when flavor, aroma and texture are even more concentrated – and then treated it like any of our other white wines. When sugars finally dropped to about 4%, we added enough of that awesome brandy to hit 18% alcohol, killing off the yeast and arresting fermentation. We then aged the wine for 9 months in neutral French oak and 2 months in stainless steel. The result is special and something that, although logistically challenging, we'd love to try again!

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA

100% Malvasia Bianca from Pillsbury Vineyard. Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested on Sept 12th

Sugar at harvest: 28.0 Brix.

Cellar Notes:

Pressed whole-cluster.

Juice chilled and settled 48 hours, then racked and inoculated with specially selected yeasts (Rhône4600).

Fermented in stainless steel at 55 F for 23 days. Fermentation arrested around 4% residual sugar.

Malolactic fermentation inhibited.

Aging:

Aged 9 months in a neutral French oak barrel (without lees stirring) and 2 months in stainless steel.

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

Stats:

pH: 3.45

TA: 5.9 g/L

RS: 4.0%

Alcohol: 17.5%

Drink now or cellar 3+ years

Production: 48 cases of half-bottles

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

