

chateau TUMBLEWEED

2021 Buhl Memorial Vineyard Malvasia Bianca

Background:

Maynard Keenan has been a friend of the Tumbleweeds since they first got into the AZ wine business more than 15 years ago. He came through for us big time in 2021 when he heard we were coming up short with some of our other vineyards due to frost and hail damage earlier in the year. Not only does he sell us a little Chardonnay every year for our Miss Sandy Jones blend, but this year he peeled off a couple extra tons of Merlot and this excellent Malvasia for us. Buhl Memorial Vineyard was the first AZ fruit Joe ever worked with (way back in 2005 when it was under different ownership) and he's always impressed to see what Maynard and his virtuoso vineyard manager, Jesse Noble, have done with this site over the years. This is some of the most picture perfect fruit you're going to find in Arizona and this Malvasia shows it. It's such a clean, vibrant wine with those classic, intense aromatics of honeysuckle, green melon and jasmine. Malvasia isn't a varietal we work with a lot at Chateau Tumbleweed, but we're grateful to Maynard for hooking us up with some of his precious fruit in a pinch! Only 70 cases produced.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA – Cochise County, AZ

100% Malvasia Bianca from Buhl Memorial Vineyard.

Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested on Aug. 19th

Sugar at harvest: 22.3 Brix.

Cellar Notes:

Pressed whole-cluster.

Juice then settled 48 hours, racked and inoculated with specially selected yeasts (QA23). Fermented in stainless steel at 55F for 22 days.

Malolactic fermentation inhibited.

Aging:

Aged 6 months in stainless steel (without lees stirring).

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

Stats:

pH: 3.32

TA: 5.7 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 13.5%

Drink within 1-2 years

Production: 70 cases

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

