chateau TUMBLEWEED

2021 Sierra Bonita Grenache Blanc

Background:

This is our fourth year working with fruit from Sierra Bonita Vineyard. It's a slightly cooler site, located at the northern edge of the Willcox AVA – in Graham County rather than Cochise. Fruit there ripens two or three weeks later than it does south of Willcox in Kansas Settlement. We had high hopes for this Grenache Blanc when it first became available, and it's quickly moving up the list of our favorite whites. It has such a bright, citrusy nose and crisp acidity that it stands out as a varietal we'd like to see planted more broadly in Arizona. Only 100 cases produced.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA – Graham County, AZ

100% Grenache Blanc from Sierra Bonita Vineyard. Graham County, AZ. 4,400 ft. elevation. Harvested on Oct. 4th

Sugar at harvest: 22.2 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 20 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: 3.45 TA: 5.5 g/L RS: <0.10% Alcohol: 13.6% Drink within 1-2 years Production: 101 cases Winemaker: Joe Bechard

