

SPANN VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY-VIOGNIER, CALIFORNIA 'YIN-YANG'

Chardonnay and Viognier. Voluptuous aromas and flavors of ripe apricots and peaches. Round, rich and well balanced with a crisp, refreshing acidity. Very food-friendly. This can handle foods that are often difficult to pair with wine, like spicy dishes, vegetables or ones that incorporate vegetables such as oriental stir-fry. It also works well with most seafood, shellfish, chicken or turkey dishes.

The Chardonnay came from the cool-climate Redwood Valley of Mendocino County while the Viognier was sourced from Alexander Valley in the warmer, northeast end of Sonoma County. This wine was whole-cluster pressed, then fermented in three-to-six-year-old French oak barrels. Aged in three-to-six-year-old French oak barrels for nine months, then in bottle for three months prior to release.

Nestled among the majestic coastal redwoods of the Mayacamas Mountains, Spann Vineyards, owned by Peter and Betsy Spann, is 40 acres of vines, ponds and animal life cultivated for the benefit of the whole. Mostly this means that they leave it alone, a core principle of sustainable farming. Betsy notes, "...the sustainable activities I practice in the vineyard are pretty passive...I am willing to sacrifice the groomed (I like to say vacuumed) look of many vineyards to achieve a real balance in the land, which actually makes less work for me, not more." The steeply terraced mountainside vineyard yields small amounts of richly flavored grapes. From this and select cool-climate vineyards throughout Sonoma County they craft limited quantities of European-style blended wines, strongly influenced by Bordeaux, the Rhone Valley and Tuscany. They strive to create food-friendly, unique wines that are memorable in their purity, authenticity, distinctiveness, and enjoyment, and that blend seamlessly into the occasion, whether it be with friends on the patio or accompanying a formal dinner. Whatever the time or place, Spann Vineyards will linger pleasurably on your palate and in your memory.

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Tasting Note:

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Shelf Talker:

