

ILLUMINATION

2018 SAUVIGNON BLANC

“Illumination is at the forefront of a new sophisticated style of Sauvignon Blanc that’s the most exciting thing happening right now with white wine in the U.S.”

—KAREN MACNEIL, author of *The Wine Bible*

What started as a passion project for the Huneeus family, this limited bottling is one of Napa Valley’s most sought-after Sauvignon Blancs.

APPELLATION: 61% Napa County, 39% Sonoma County

COMPOSITION: 56% Sauvignon Musque, 34% Sauvignon Blanc, 10% Semillon

Vintage Notes

THE 2018 GROWING SEASON was characterized by a relatively late start and ideal weather conditions. Bud break and flowering conditions were perfect. The mild summer months favored the vegetative growth, allowing the grapes to maintain acidity and accumulate flavor at moderate sugar levels. Grapes were harvested with excellent levels of acidity and vividly preserved flavors beginning on August 30th and ended October 1st.

Winemaking

The grapes were hand-picked and gently whole-cluster pressed, and the juice was fermented with mostly native yeast in a variety of vessels. French oak barrels (6% new; 63% neutral) bring a depth to the body and a hint of oak spice, while Acacia barrels (4% new) add a complex floral spice on the nose. Egg-shaped concrete fermenters (14%) add richness to the palate while retaining fresh aromas, and stainless-steel barrels (13%) maintain the purity of the fruit. Semillon adds a round mouth-feel to complement the vibrant and tangy Sauvignon Blanc. Lees stirring enhances weight and complexity.

Winemaker Notes

THE 2018 ILLUMINATION is a complex, sophisticated and vibrant wine. Floral aromas of honeysuckle, jasmine and white rose complement the notes of white peach, Meyer lemon, pink grapefruit and kiwi. In the mouth, a beautiful tension and fine acidity provides brightness to its creamy texture and flavors of juicy mandarin, guava and wet stones. A blend of Sauvignon Musque, Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon, this wine is exceptionally well balanced in intensity with a distinctive creamy, yet mineral texture. Tension and minerality prevail through the long and elegant finish.

