

O S A M A J O R

wines

spring release 2023

2022 TOCAI FRIULANO

snows crossing vineyard, sierra foothills, CA

Snow's Crossing Vineyard is a small, organically farmed family vineyard just above Placerville, CA. At 3150 feet in elevation, it pushes the upper limits for grape ripening, but southern exposure ensures consistent heat throughout the summer months. 2022 brought devastating late spring frosts to many vineyards in the area, but miraculously Snows Crossing was virtually untouched.

Tocai Friulano is known for being spicy and crisp, and the finished wine delivers notes of rosewater, melon, coriander seed, and tarragon. The decision to ferment on skins is a nod to the traditional vinification of this grape in its native home of Friuli, Italy.

The fruit was handpicked on September 3, 2022 and came in at 20.3 Brix. Faced with a record breaking heat wave, we rushed to get the pick in before the temperature spiked in order to preserve the snap and freshness these grapes had to offer. Once at the winery, they were fully destemmed and fermented on skins for 9 days, after which it was pressed and aged on lees for five months in neutral oak barrels. It underwent full spontaneous malolactic fermentation, and during aging, the barrels were periodically topped with Semillon. Bottled unfiltered/unfiltered March 15, 2023.

Harvest Brix: 20.3 12.0% alc/vol

Harvest date: September 3, 2022 100% Tocai Friulano

20 ppm SO2 at bottling 48 cases produced

2022 GOLD IN THE HILLS

chatom vineyard, sierra foothills, CA

Gold in the Hills is a nod to California's history and the vineyard on which it is grown, and also to the landscape of the Sierra Foothills. In keeping with this theme, you'll find notes of honeycomb, warm hay, chamomile, and meyer lemon. This was my second year sourcing this fruit, and I'm finding that the window to pick here is narrow - things can change overnight here.

Chatom Vineyard is one of those places that can only be described as an "energy vortex". Decomposed granite and limestone make up a majority of the soil, and large chunks of quartz litter the ground. Nestled in a bowl shaped valley, the property has three defunct goldmines, and if you look carefully you can see some flashes of gold dust in the soil as well.

These vines were hand-picked, after which they were destemmed and pressed into stainless steel casks. After a spontaneous primary fermentation, part of the wine was transferred into neutral oak barrels. It remained in these barrels with fine lees until bottling, undergoing a spontaneous malolactic fermentation in late fall. Bottled unfiltered/unfiltered March 15, 2023.

Harvest Brix: 22.9 13.6% alc/vol

Harvest date: August 24, 2022 100% Semillon

25 ppm SO2 at bottling 90 cases produced

2022 ROSADO

lewis vineyard, clements hills, CA

Highly aromatic and powerfully fruity on the nose, dry on the palate. This year, I chose to pick a bit earlier to create a slightly leaner profile, and was pleased to find that this fruit is just as punchy and flavorful at a lower brix, with the same signature strawberry cake notes as the previous year.

Lewis Vineyard sits in the Clements Hills, which you'll reach if you head East out of Lodi to the place where the Central Valley just begins to turn into the foothills. Grower Gregg Lewis is a pioneer in pushing for greater sustainability to the Lodi region, and the fruit he farms on these gently rolling hills are a testament to the amount of care and attention he brings them.

These vines were hand-picked and brought to the winery, where they were sorted gently foot-tread, and loaded into the press destemmed. Because of the brilliant color of the berries, they were pressed immediately rather than waiting for color to develop. After two days in tank, the juice was racked with fluffy lees into stainless steel casks. It remained in these casks with fine lees until bottling, undergoing an interrupted spontaneous malolactic fermentation in late fall and early spring. Bottled unfiltered/unfiltered March 15, 2023.

Harvest Brix: 20.1 12.3% alc/vol

Harvest date: August 26, 2022 100% Tempranillo

25 ppm SO2 at bottling 61 cases produced