



2007 Novy Willamette Valley Blanc de Noir

The image of making lemonade out of lemons isn't something that immediately comes to mind when discussing winemaking. However, sometimes it is a very accurate description of what we do. The 2007 Oregon harvest provided us with that opportunity. As we briefly mentioned in the introduction, it did rain a good bit during the 2007 growing season. In fact, our vineyards received over 2.5 inches of rain in one week and then, just a few days later, another 4 inches of rain fell. These are certainly far from ideal growing conditions but thanks to diligent work by a very devoted group of growers, we were able to harvest clean and fairly full flavored grapes. However, there was one section of the Arbre Vert Vineyard, planted to the 115 clone, that we picked largely because we didn't think it was going to get any better although it didn't taste fully ripe to us. In this situation, we decided to take a chance and make something different from the grapes. Immediately upon arriving at the winery we put the whole clusters into the press and pressed them very gently. The goal was to extract as much good tasting juice from the grapes without pulling out any color. We placed this juice into one ton bins, let it settle for a day, and then drained it to a combination of stainless steel and older oak barrels. There the wine fermented and went thru partial malolactic fermentation. We kept it in these vessels until May when we bottled it. So, what does this unique wine taste like? First off, it is surprisingly, remarkably good. Ryan Zepaltas, our very talented assistant winemaker, thought this was the craziest idea we had ever possessed. Now, the Blanc de Noir is his favorite Novy white wine. It possesses some of the mid-palate weight and richness of Chardonnay but with exceptional acidity. The nose, however, is a bit more exotic with hints of orange and cherry fruits. Quite frankly, it smells more like Marsanne or Rousanne but, combined with the weight and fruit flavors, it ultimately is its own uniquely wonderful wine.

117 cases produced
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