

the RAILSBACK FRÈRES

2020 Clairette Blanche



VARIETY

100% Clairette Blanche

PLACE

Santa Ynez Valley, Alisos Canyon AVA

AGING

10 months in neutral French barriques

PH

3.27

TA

6.5

ALC%

12.5%

Our love letter to the French seaside village of Cassis. From the Nolan Ranch in Santa Ynez' Alisos Canyon where they are experimenting with rare plantings of Graciano, Picpoul Blanc, Teroldego, Mencia, and Xarello, but it was 1.84 acres of Clairette Blanche in the northwest hills of their property that caught our eye. During our last decade working and studying in the South of France, it was a thrill getting to know the waxy, saline whites of Cassis, Bandol, and Châteauneuf Blanc from some of the

greatest producers of their appellations—all of which are based on Clairette-- so we were excited for the opportunity to harvest some ourselves. We picked on the early side at 22 brix, fermented using only wild yeasts and aged in neutral barrels (allowing a natural malolactic as practiced by our favorites in Provence) then gave the Clairette a longer élevage than our other whites and rosé-- to be released just in time for peak tomato season.