



## 2014 BLANCANEAUX

### ABOUT THE WINE

Blancaneaux, a white Rhone-style blend of estate-grown Roussanne, Marsanne, and Viognier, was created in 1999 as the partner to Rubicon, Inglenook's premier red wine. Produced in extremely limited quantities from the 6.5 acres of white grapes grown on the property at the base of Mt. St. John, all three varietals come from vines that are more than ten years old and now showing signs of maturity by revealing more profuse aromatics, richer textures, and complex flavors. Marsanne and Roussanne contribute body and minerality, while our Viognier brings an intense bouquet of tropical fruit and spices.

### VINTAGE

In spite of a sizeable earthquake during the summer and the challenges associated with California's ongoing drought, 2014 was an outstanding season that delivered fruit of such high quality that the vintage may be judged more superior to the impressive vintage that preceded it. Winter was drier than normal, but we received more rain than in 2013. The growing season was consistently warm, yet never excessively hot, and our fruit achieved excellent concentration because there was less vine vigor than the year before. Veraison came early as did harvest once again. We began picking white grapes in August, even earlier than the year before, and were extremely attentive to the vines, harvesting grapes at precisely the right moment to ensure the fruit retained its vibrant natural acidity. The resulting fruit demonstrated rich, luscious flavors offset by crisp acidity and intense aromatics.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

Our Blancaneaux grapes are harvested by hand early morning in order to preserve the fruit's natural acidity and delicate fragrance. A high percentage of the first pressed juice was used in the blend, which we fermented cold in small stainless steel vessels to retain the full complement of fruit. Because Blancaneaux is not aged in wood, fermentation was followed by sur lie aging to develop the wine's rich, creamy palate. Our vines have gained maturity over the years. The fruit they bear creates a more complex wine now, showing beautiful textures and palate density along with a range of flavor nuances. We are proud of its pedigree and elegant character.

### TASTING NOTES

Our 2014 Blancaneaux is extremely expressive. This year's blend is made up of more than 50% Viognier, which creates a heightened fragrance of exotic flavors that include pineapples and white peaches. Round in the mouth and almost bold in its delivery of aromatics, the wine exhibits a freshness from the ideal balance of natural acidity. Enjoy impressions of Meyer lemon, papaya, and tropical fruits along with a hint of minerality from the Roussanne and Marsanne.

APPELLATION:	RUTHERFORD, CA
BLEND:	56% VIOGNIER, 22% ROUSSANNE, 22% MARSANNE
VINEYARD:	SADDLE, APPLE
ALCOHOL:	13.5%
REGIMEN:	100% STAINLESS
RELEASE DATE:	FEBRUARY 2016

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