



2014 Albariño Riverbench Vineyard

Appellation: Santa Maria Valley

Alcohol by volume: 13.87%

pH: 3.190

T.A: 0.750

Cases produced: 529

Bottling date: January 20, 2015

Albariño is the most well-known white grape of the Galicia region of northern Spain. In Portugal, the grape is called *Alvarinho* where it is used extensively in blends, as well as in single varietal wines in the Vinho Verde region.

The origin of Albariño is not certain but it has been grown on the Iberian Peninsula for centuries. DNA analysis has been vague in determining its parentage. It does have some similarities to the grape Petit Manseng, which is grown on both sides of the Pyrenees Mountains, separating Spain and France.

Albariño can produce extremely fruity and aromatic wines with aromas of apricot, white peach, nectarine, honeysuckle and citrus flowers. The berries have thick skins containing seeds capable of contributing a phenolic bitterness to wines unless the fruit is handled with care and attention when processing.

In the Vineyard and Cellar

2014 was our fourth vintage producing Albariño from the Riverbench Vineyard. It is just a quick trip from Kenneth Volk Vineyards - across the bridge on Tepusquet Road. The Albariño at Riverbench is the only planting of the variety in the Santa Maria Valley AVA. The cool climate and the well-drained soils of the Santa Maria Valley help in producing Albariño of exceptional quality.

The KVV Albariño was hand-picked and whole cluster pressed. The juice was allowed to cold settle for several days. Fermentation commenced in stainless steel with an inoculation of non-saccharomyces yeast for the first 5° brix. A series of aroma-enhancing saccharomyces yeast stains were then introduced to complete primary fermentation.

The combination of these yeast strains helped to produce a clean, highly aromatic wine with bright acidity and flavors of nectarine and Granny Smith apple.

Consider pairing with spicy seafood dishes like Pacific Snapper with peppers and onion, or shellfish paella with chorizo. This wine also pairs beautifully with fruit salsas and chutneys. The 2014 KVV Albariño was awarded a Best of Class and a gold medal at the *Sunset Magazine's International Wine Competition*.

Produced and Bottled by Kenneth Volk Vineyards 5230 Tepusquet Road Santa Maria, CA 93454
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