

BENZIGER

FAMILY WINERY

2009 SAUVIGNON BLANC

SONOMA & LAKE COUNTIES

Alcohol 13.5% | Total Acidity .66 | pH 3.2



TASTING NOTES | Bright citrus and floral aromas introduce our Sauvignon Blanc. In the mouth, it is fresh and enduring, providing a good, but not heavy, volume. This Old World-style Sauvignon Blanc offers subtle minerality and notes of grapefruit and lemon. The wine's acid is both balanced and integrated, giving it an elegant softness.

WINEMAKING | Grapes from select vineyards in both Sonoma and Lake Counties are blended to create the purest expression of the Sauvignon Blanc varietal.

Grapes from Sonoma are harvested later and are more aromatic in character, exhibiting enhanced fruit flavors. Fruit from warmer Lake County is harvested earlier in the season and provides an acidic backbone for this wine. In the vineyard, canopy management and crop thinning are instrumental in achieving the perfect fruit-to-acid balance in each grape.

VINTAGE | As seems to be the pattern over the past few years, 2009 was a year of extremes. This vintage also marks the third year in a row of below average rainfall. But a few things define this harvest in particular. First, rains in May took the edge off the drought and were responsible for the beautiful, full-strength photosynthetic canopies we had going into harvest. Second, was the roller coaster weather throughout the summer. We had 10-12 days of cool weather followed by 2-3 days of very warm weather. The heat wasn't high enough and didn't last long enough to damage anything, but it gave the grapes a good push towards ripening. Consistently, the cool weather returned and we were back to slow, even ripening. This back and forth seemed to have worked out well for the vintage. Third, flavor development was further ahead in 2009. The heat bumps have brought up the flavors and the cool weather has kept the structure and acid intact.

BENZIGER FARMING PRACTICES | At Benziger Family Winery, we are dedicated to winemaking that reveals the true character of the vineyard, the varietal and the vintage in certified-sustainable, -organically grown and-Biodynamic® wines defined by individuality and the passion of the people who make them. This wine was made with grapes grown by **certified sustainable farming** methods. Our sustainable philosophy promotes natural vineyard management, restoration of the land and biodiversity on the estate. We believe these practices result in wines that reflect the authentic flavors, aromas and character of the vineyard.