

# VASO

## 2018 VASO by Dana Estates Sauvignon Blanc, Napa Valley

### VINTAGE

The season started off with a dry January and February making us uneasy after the drought years of 2013-2016. However, March and April brought ample rainfall to fill the soil reservoir giving the vine ample access to soil nutrients. The latter rains delayed bud break a few weeks with the growing season starting in the first couple weeks in April. Mild temperatures in April and May brought steady canopy growth through bloom at the beginning of June. The perfect weather during set in addition to the wet 2017 winter set the vines up for a larger than average crop. A hot July helped shift the vines from shoot growth to berry ripening mode. The rest of the season was mild with only a few hot days, perfect weather for developing color and flavor while moderating sugar levels at peak ripeness.

### HARVEST

We harvested our Sauvignon Blanc in 4 picks over 10 days, starting about 1 week later than normal. Tradition has made the first pick a “team pick” where all employees pick the first grapes of the season and enjoy a meal together. We gathered on September 6th to do a selected harvest of the “golden” or ripest clusters. On September 11th, we made another pass picking upper portion of the block which sits on bright red iron rich soil. A few days later, we harvested the middle and lower portions over 2 days. The north facing and coolest part of the block was our final pick on September 14th.

### METHOD

All lots were gently basket pressed to release the aromatics in the skins. The clean, flowing juice was lightly settled before going to 270 liter French Oak cigar barrels for fermentation and aging. The lees were stirred in barrel for the first six months after fermentation to integrate the oak with the fruit and to build the body of the wine.

### SENSORY

The 2018 Hershey Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc is precise and lively reflecting to cool vintage. The wine opens with aromas of fresh flower, feijoa, and hints of ginger and brioche. The palate is bright with fresh acidity. Flavors of Italian lemon, vanilla, and lemongrass flow into wet slate and white peach. Delicious now, but this is a wine that will age beautifully.

### STATISTICS

**Appellation** | Howell Mountain, Napa Valley

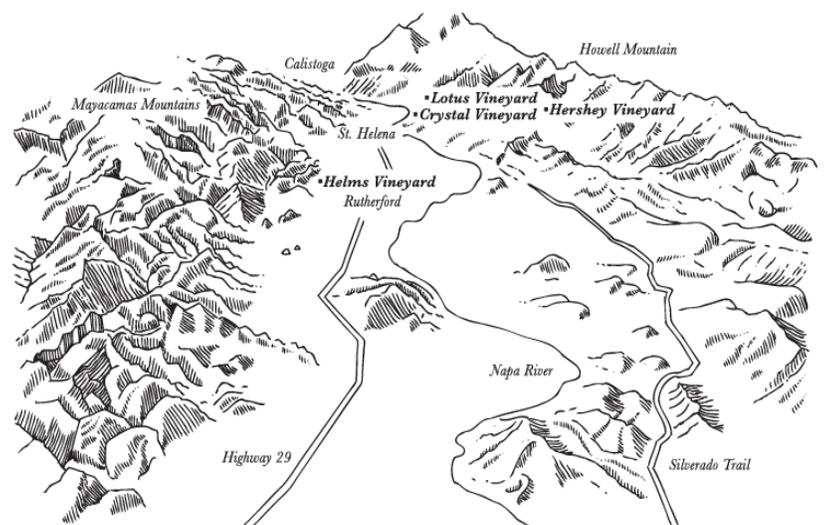
**Blend** | 100% Sauvignon blanc

**Élevage** | 20 months in 14% new French oak, 86% used French Oak

**Coopers** | Ermitage, Baron

**Alcohol** | 14.5% **pH** | 3.1 **TA** | 8.1 g/L

**Bottling Date** | June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020



VASO Cellars

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