

## 2018 "Catie's Corner" Viognier

### *Vineyard Notes:*

Catie's Corner Vineyard is a very robust vineyard, planted in 1995 from clones that originate from a small town called Condrieu in Northern Rhone. I love this spot, especially the dried up creek bed with Goldridge loam and river cobble soils on a small knoll facing mainly southwest. Quadrilateral cordon trained and spur pruned\*, this vineyard was planted with high production in mind. The vineyard could easily set 6-9 tons per acre, but I wanted something in the 3-4 ton range. We worked out an acreage contract that allows me to thin drastically by dropping fruit throughout the growing season yielding an average of 3.4 tons over my last 16 harvests. It gets plenty of sun, but is tempered by some foggy early mornings being just north of the Windsor airport and a bit outside the heart of the Russian River Valley. I like the varietal correctness in terms of resulting flavors and bouquet, so I pick at ripeness that showcases those qualities. I love the apricot, peach liqueur, honeysuckle and licorice that comes with Viognier when grown correctly.

Once I get the fruit into the barn, the wine makes itself - whole cluster pressing direct to barrel and into a cold cellar usually does the trick. I only use neutral French oak barrels.

### *Winemaker's Tasting Notes:*

Barrel fermented in neutral French oak and aged for 16 months sur lees. Golden honey in color. Nose is all Giddyuuup! Big, ripe aromas of pear, quince, apricots and orange licorice. Background notes of honeysuckle, citrus rind & paper whites. Ripe, delicious flavors of Japanese pears, apricot, golden apple and peach liquor. Finishes long and bright with hints of lychee, liquid minerals, citrus and a touch of taragon.

### *Production:*

425 Cases

### *Alcohol:*

15.6%

### *Date Harvested:*

September 22nd

