

WILLIAMS SELYEM



2018 Drake Estate Vineyard Brut Blanc de Blancs

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

The bright color with a tinge of green belies the purity of Chardonnay from our Drake Estate. Kefir lime, lemon, and fennel dust aromas abound and give way to hints of Brazil nut and a subtle maltiness reminiscent of freshly baked bread. Pure and fresh in the mouth, flavors of lime give way to a tannic intensity in the mid-palate. Made in the traditional method, or Méthode Champenoise, with 6 years en tirage creates another layer of complexity. The taut acidity and dry extract in the middle palate is perfectly balanced with the 4.0 g/L dosage and allows for the tension to linger onto a long finish. Like most great sparkling wines that are crafted to this level of detail, this wine can age for a number of years, but who can resist it now? Enjoy with shellfish or richer seafood dishes.

HARVEST 2018

The winter months were very dry with unseasonably warm weather in the early part of the season. By mid-February the rains had returned; nearly doubling the total rainfall and staving off early budbreak. The much-needed rains continued through March resulting in budbreak for the larger part of Westside Road by month-end. The remainder of the spring saw additional rainfall with spates of warm weather interspersed. The plants responded well under these near-perfect vegetative cycle conditions. Flowering commenced in June under ideal temperatures. Subsequently, below-average temperatures ensued for a week and a half which extended the bloom schedule. The net effect of the cooling trend created a looser cluster and some millerandage or “hens and chicks,” a highly desirable trait for many reasons including better phenolic development and better air flow through the cluster to prevent mold. Heading into the season, crop loads were near-historic averages with great vine balance. Harvest started on August 16th under ideal conditions with moderate, consistent temperatures. Vintage highlights include site specificity and elegance, while displaying concentration and balance—another great Williams Selyem year in the making.

TECHNICAL NOTES

En Tirage: 6 years

Alc: 12.5%

Released 2024

\$90

