

Z'IVO Wines 2011 Pinot Blanc

Eola-Amity Hills AVA, Willamette Valley, Oregon USA

WINEMAKER NOTES



This unusual clone of Pinot Blanc was a recognized, spontaneous mutation from Pinot Noir to Pinot Blanc about 100 years ago. Henri Gouges, the vineyard owner, understood what had happened and was intrigued enough to propagate it. Over the years, this clone has become the white wine of Domaine Gouges. Imported to the United States, it was planted at Arcus Vineyard and was a component of Viriton, their blend of three white wines. I was lucky enough to gain experience with it from 2002 on, until their vineyard was plowed under. I was offered the chance to grow it on my own vineyard at that time and I jumped at the opportunity. We grafted it onto 101/14 rootstock and planted it in Woodburn soil without irrigation. This is the first vintage from the new plants. 2011 was the latest harvest on record, and these grapes were picked very late in October.

Half the grapes were fermented in neutral wood with malolactic and the other half in steel drums without malolactic. The wine was left on the lees until bottling in September.

230 cases produced. \$25 retail.

The wine has starfruit and talcum powder aromas. The unusual phenolic presence that is characteristic of this clone gives weight to the mid-palate, framing the citrus and green apple tones, and finishing with a hint of lemon butter. At tasting in March of 2013, this wine promises to last a decade. It is beginning to drink now but will express itself more fully in six months.



John Zelko

Founder & Winemaker