



CASTORO CELLARS

2021 BALENA

Balena is a delicate, aromatic blend of Viognier, Pinot Grigio, Falanghina and Grenache Blanc. Balena is Italian for whale, and this blend is a nod to our organically certified Whale Rock Vineyard, in which much of the grapes are grown. Our Whale Rock Vineyard is named for this exact reason, it is studded with ancient whale fossils that date back millions of years. The 2021 Balena is pleasantly aromatic, crisp, and refreshing. The Oakenshield wines are a special bottling by Niels and Bimmer produced to celebrate the spirit of the good life and to honor friends and family both past and present.

HARVEST NOTES:

Every vintage has its personality. 2021 is no exception. The spring did not produce any real frost events that could have harmed the tender vines. Most of spring was mild and caused a lingering set of the grapes on the vine. Summer was generally mild with no major heat events. The challenge was getting even ripeness with the delayed fruit set. Patience and constant field sampling paid off! Some varieties came in early, and some lingered on until nearly Thanksgiving but in the end, everything made it for our Estate wines and as always 100% organic certified. Look for bright fruit in the white wines and soft tannins in the red wines.

WINEMAKER NOTES:

This blend represents a true cross section of the Paso Robles AVA and our estate vineyards. By design, all grapes utilized were harvested at the lower end of ripeness to capture acidity, freshness, and to avoid the detraction of higher alcohol content. Cool fermentations in stainless steel accentuates aroma intensity of these varieties. The goal of this wine is to make a blend featuring floral and fruit characters up front, while maintaining body, acid balance, and a flavorful finish.

- CRAIG REED, Associate Winemaker

TASTING NOTES:

APPEARANCE: Straw yellow

AROMA: Star jasmine, white peach and melon

PALATE: White peach, pear, honeydew, long fresh finish

TECHNICAL NOTES:

VARIETAL: 33% Viognier, 28% Pinot Grigio, 26% Falanghina, 13% Grenache Blanc

VINEYARD SOURCES: Blind Faith, Whale Rock, Dos Viñas, Stone's Throw

AVA: Paso Robles HARVEST DATE: September - November 2021

BOTTLING DATE: July 19, 2022 HARVEST SUGAR: 24° brix

OAK: N/A ALCOHOL: 13.5% TA: 0.54 g. 100ml pH: 3.37

