

This wine is 100% Roussanne grown at the Alban Vineyard in the Edna Valley. Edna Valley is a cool growing area about 30 miles north of Santa Maria. John Alban is growing and making some of the most distinctive and intense Rhone varietals in California.

This is our seventh year of making this wine and sadly our last. The good news though is that our exclusive Roussanne block at Bien Nacido is now producing at a level to replace the Alban grapes.

Grapes for this wine were harvested on October 29th at 23.5 brix, 3.18 pH and 9.3 acidity with about 10% botrytis...perfect numbers, perfect grapes! The grapes were whole cluster pressed, the juice chilled overnight and then transferred into one year old Francois Freres French oak barrels for fermentation. The wine went through a slow, but complete malo and was aged 16 months in barrel. 271 cases were bottled without filtration in February 2003.

This is one of the best vintages of Alban Roussanne we've made (along with '96 and '99). The aroma shows smoke, flint, beeswax, with hints of honey and citrus. It's an intense wine in the mouth, big with juicy acidity. Do Not serve as an aperitif, this wine should go with the meal (grilled fish or roast pork come to mind). I believe this wine will age nicely for 10-15 years.