

Chenin/Sauvignon Blanc

White Wine - - - - - 12% ABV Vintage 2021

GRAPE	Chenin Blanc/Sauvignon Blanc
REGION	Kanou Vineyard, Tomi, Nagano

WINEMAKERS: *Yutaka and Michiru Nakajima*

ABOUT THE WINE:

BOTTLES PRODUCED: 990

— A blend of Chenin Blanc and Sauvignon Blanc from the Kanou Vineyard, one of Domaine Nakajima's home vineyards. It sits at 750m above sea level, composed mostly of clay and volcanic ash, with schist and sand, and is planted mostly to Loire varieties. Winters are cold here and lush and humid in the summer, though this area of Nagano sees relatively less rain than other areas of Honshu. No sprays were used, except for bordeaux mixture, and no tillage in the vineyard. The cover crop was mowed down and left in the rows between the vines. This vintage saw high quality fruit, with favorable weather and easy ripening for both the skins and the aromatics. The pick happened earlier than past years, as acidity started to drop earlier than expected.

The two varieties were harvested at the same time with a small pick on September 6th, and then a main pick on September 20th. The grapes were then crushed and pressed manually and then fermented spontaneously as a blend in resin-lined tanks, before aging for 10 months in neutral oak barrels. The wine was unfinned and unfiltered, and 25ppm of sulphur was added just before bottling.

This blend showcases the unique terroir of Nagano, offering aromas of toasted macadamia and chestnut, bright citrus notes like mandarin and navel orange, along with fresh basil, tarragon, and sage. The palate features crisp citrus acidity balanced by a touch of sweetness reminiscent of ripe mandarin and subtle nuttiness. A rich and powerful, but delicate profile with slight bitterness and saltiness. In spite of the early drop in acidity, the wine still shows a beautiful medium plus raciness and complex malolactic characteristics. It incorporates concentration and richness, paired with elegance and a nimble profile, from its time in barrel and on the lees and from the relatively moderate 12% alcohol. It is an expressive example of the quality of Nagano winemaking.



PRODUCER

Domaine Nakajima
Tomi, Nagano Prefecture

GROWING REGION

