



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E



2013 “Tiara” Sauvignon Blanc

Production: 409 cases

Composition: 93% Sauvignon Blanc & 7% Semillon

Vineyards: Windy Flats, Baker & Alsace

Appellations: Atlas Peak, Wooden Valley & Oakville

Elevation: Valley Floor – 1,000 ft.

Cooperage: (4) 2012 Francois Freres barrels, (4) 2012 Remond A MTL+ and (2) new Stavin French oak, and the rest neutral French oak

Alcohol: 14.9%, TA 0.62, pH 3.39

Bottling date: May 12, 2014

Release date: Summer 2014

Release price: \$35.00

The Hill Family Estate Tiara is normally a Sauvignon Blanc made from a blend of vineyards farmed by the Hill Family, with some Semillon. But in 2013, when we tasted through the vineyard selections, the Windy Flats vineyard just kept coming out on top as more fragrant, more luscious, and more powerful. Since Tiara is created to make a rich opulent style of Sauvignon Blanc, we decided to have the 2013 Tiara showcase this unique vineyard. Windy Flats Vineyard in the eastern foothills of Wooden Valley is in a dramatic landscape of rock and cliff, with just enough soil between the marl out crops for a few acres of vines. Doug Hill chose 3 clones and carefully selected the rootstalks so that the Sauvignon Blanc would have layers of complexity and interest. The season was about 2 weeks earlier than normal, and we harvested the vineyard on August 28th at 24.3 Brix. This is a little higher Brix than we would like, but the acids were still fairly high, and the aromatics were still building. It seemed like the vineyard had just gone through veraison, so for the Tiara, we waited about a week after we first went through and picked for the Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc, to see if we could get more intensity from the vineyard. The grapes were whole cluster pressed along with 7% Semillon from the Alsace Vineyard, and all of the wine was barrel fermented with VL3 yeast.

It stayed in barrel until early May, almost 9 months, to integrate and balance its very large proportions.

Winemaker Alison Doran's tasting notes:

Bold nose with lilac and lychee, a little gardenia, filled in by ripe melon and a hint of vanilla caramel. Big rich texture, with lots of peach and apricot flavors and again the butterscotch and vanilla layer filling in the middle.