



## TASTING NOTES FROM WINEMAKER BYRON KOSUGE



### 2005 TOBIANO SAUVIGNON BLANC

Production:	700 cases
Alcohol:	14.5%
Release Date:	September 2006
Suggested Retail Price:	\$12/bottle

“What is Tobiano?” Here’s the deal: being the new kid on the block we felt we needed to set the quality bar very high for ourselves. So we make rigorous selections of the best barrels from the best lots to bottle as the top wines, and we don’t bottle anything that is of questionable quality.

Inevitably there are a lot of barrels that are very good but perhaps not quite intense enough for the top wines. Because there is never enough good, approachable, affordable wine, we realized that it made sense to bottle these wines. We decided to name them all “Tobiano” and label them by varietal, with a different label design to distinguish them from their more exalted kin.

2005 was a late, cool vintage for Casablanca. While we seem always to be farming on the edge, this season was especially edgy. Because of the lateness of the year and a larger than average crop, we dropped a lot of fruit on the ground so that what remained on the vine would fully ripen.

Sauvignon Blanc in 2005 arrived at the winery in excellent condition, about 10 days later than in 2004. However, with the heavier crop load we felt that concentration was not up to the standard of the sold out 2004 Cariblanco Sauvignon Blanc. So, after much deliberation we bottled all the 2005 as Tobiano Sauvignon Blanc.

The wine shows the coolness of the vintage with characters pointing more towards the old world (think Sancerre or Pouilly Fume)—a more austere, more mineral style. Those who lean towards the old world style of Sauvignon Blanc should enjoy this one.