



## 2009 Roussanne Blend - Les Tournesols (The Sunflowers)

*Pelérin Wines*

In the world of white wine grapes, Roussanne is fairly unique and a bit odd, because it yields a certain sense of power to wines principally made from it - yet it is also quite delicate and nuanced in character. The more experience I have with its seemingly contradictory elements, the more it returns me to first principles: ripen the grapes enough to generate appropriate weight and texture without losing vibrancy and interesting aromatics, and carefully vinify the juice in such a way as to maintain those characters in the finished wine. For me at least, balance is everything in wine, and Roussanne demands great care in that regard.

Viognier also has quite a variable temperament. As it ages in barrels, by turns, it seems fresh and bright, then rich but muddled. But at the end, despite its apparent moodiness, it always emerges as a more cohesive and satisfying wine than expected: one that is full of playful, complex, and intriguing angles.

The aromas and flavors of the 2010 Les Tournesols blend (French for "Sunflowers") center on mango and asian pear with supporting notes of licorice and clover honey. Very keenly balanced, there is a distinctive interplay between the richer elements at the edge and a lively component of fresh cut white peach, from the Viognier portion, that emerges to tie everything together on the finish.

*58% Viognier - clone 642*

*42% Roussanne - clone 468*

Harvested September 27th, 2010

23.6 brix at harvest

Yield: approximately 3.24 tons per acre

2.16 tons of Viognier, and 1.53 tons of Roussanne from Paraiso Vineyard were hand-picked, pressed, and fermented in the combination of one stainless steel barrel and neutral barrels and puncheons.

The wine was stirred gently over the winter, but was otherwise left untouched until final blending and bottling.

### VINTAGE

2009

### VARIETAL

Blend

### BARREL AGING

8 months

bottled June 16th, 2011

### COOPERAGE

88% in 8 year old puncheons  
and neutral barrels

12% in one stainless steel  
barrel

### PRODUCTION

213 cases

### COMPOSITION

58% Viognier - clone 642

42% Roussanne - clone 468