



1999 BLANC DE NOIRS



Blend	73% Pinot Noir 20% Charonnay 7% Pinot Munier
Source	60% Napa County 14% Sonoma County 13% Mendocino County 12% Monterey County 1% Marin County
Alcohol	12.5%
TA	0.86g / 100ml
pH	3.17
Residual Sugar	1.23
Bottle Size	750ml
Production	9,015cases

Blanc de Noirs (white from black) is the counterpart of Blanc de Blancs (white from white). Made at Schramsberg from the red wine grape Pinot Noir, this is a delicious, fruitful, full-bodied sparkling wine. Schramsberg pioneered the Blanc de Noirs style in the United States, releasing the first such American cuvée in 1967.

Making a white wine from a red grape requires great care: handpicked fruit, early morning harvest, optimal fruit maturity, delicate pressing. A balance of bright flavors, crisp acidity, and minimal tannins is achieved. Three years of yeast contact knits all the elements together in a mature, toasty style.

Blanc de Noirs presents layers of roasted almond, caramel, cherry and spice. The wine is especially appealing with lighter meats such as veal and pork tenderloin, caviar and smoked fish, risotto with chanterelles and vegetables, or cheese soufflés.

Hugh Johnson wrote in his Picket Encyclopedia of Wine: "Schramsberg*** a dedicated specialist: California's best sparkling...Blanc de Noirs outstanding." The 1992 Blanc de Noirs won a gold medal at the World Wine Championships; the 1996 and 1997 both won gold medals at the Orange County Fair.

THE 1999 VINTAGE

"The cool 1999 growing season delivered a sparkling harvest that began on August 25th in Sourthern Napa and ended on October 20th in Western Marin. Pinot Noir from throughout our five-county growing region is incorporated into this vanage blanc de Noir, an assemblage of 27 distinct vineyards. The twenty percent of added Chardonnay lends crispness and length to the palate while the fifteen percent barrel-fermentation adds flesh and viscosity.

Just ripening cherry and raspberry aromas are accented with hints of strawberry yogurt and watermelon candy. Lightly-baked dough and hazelnut characters resulting from bottle aging on the yeast add significant depth. The wine's creamy palate, filled with sweet and sour berry flavors, is lingering and quenching."

Hugh Davies, Winemaker