

2010 SAUVIGNON BLANC "ICE," NAPA VALLEY



VINEYARDS

The magic of Thorn Hill's 2010 Ice wine started in our Napa Valley Carneros vineyard. The soils are a combination of gravel, volcanic ash, loam and clay that ages-old geologic forces formed at the base of the southern end of the Napa Valley. The vineyard is located in one of the coolest areas of the Napa Valley and is well protected from the morning and evening breezes. The fog, which is so critical to noble rot, can settle longer to help in the all-important transformation created by botrytis, a mold that provides the near mystical richness, texture and complexity that sets Thorn Hill's Ice wine apart.

VINTAGE 2010

In 2010 the Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc grapes fully ripened late in the year and were transformed by the late harvest rains into an ice wine through a combination of botrytis, frost, and the winemaker's willingness to take a calculated risk by delaying picking through the rainy season into late November when the grapes were frostbitten on the vine.

WINEMAKING

Perhaps no other wine is as technically demanding to make as Ice wine. Amy Thorn's winemaking achieves such heights because science and time-tested traditions are combined to coax a vintage into releasing all of its potential. Few wines demand so much experience as the making of a great late harvest wine. Equally, the consequences of mistakes are extreme.

AGING

Aging is a process that can't be rushed. At first, each barrel of wine is checked and the barrel is carefully topped up to replace any wine that was lost to the oak and evaporation as we protect it from the dangers of air. Sometime during the third year, only the finest barrels are selected, blended and bottled. That wine in the bottle represents but a tiny fraction of the grapes, juice and wine that started the journey on the vine to become Thorn Hill's Ice wine.

TASTING NOTES

Thorn Hill's "Ice" comes from grapes ripened by winter's first frost. Replete with aroma and flavors of honey, apricot, pear and caramel, "Ice" is a refined wine born of high peaks and high taste.

THORN HILL
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