Isidore Vineyard
Maule Valley
Semillon
2019
F2

"A Fieldcraft Bottling"

– farming wisdom passed down over the ages

- Alcohol: 13 % vol
- pH: 3,00
- Acidity: 6,72 g/l
- Residual sugar: 1,01 g/l

- 1 584 bottles filled
- 5 barrels

In a nutshell

As wine exports have boomed in S America it has grown increasingly difficult for small growers to sell their grapes at a bonafide price. Modern buyers want more for less and they would have the small modernise: spray instead of cultivate, scale instead of focus, above all reduce the cost of labour. It's the labour that unlocks the flavour of the wisdom of farming passed down through the ages. We call it fieldcraft.

Just imagine old vineyards being shunned, not because they stopped making wonderful wine, but because modern day business claims they are too small to fill a truck, too far away from a paved road, they cannot be worked with a tractor nor can they be picked by a machine.

What you need to know

The Vineyard & Farming	- 65+ yrs old - 1 hectare - decomposed granite - old-bush head vines - Harvested manually with our GWCo crew painstakingly separating Sauvignon B. in the field - 1 - 1,3 kg per plant / < 3,ooo kgs per hectare - farmed by hand and horse with traditional methods of dry-farming
Winemaking:	- fermented naturally in amphora / tinaja with skins - some whole bunches added

	- Seeds were removed when they floated to the surface and skins remained in the juice for eleven months.
Elevage:	Aged in amphora and old barrels for one year
Appellation:	DO Maule
Varietal:	100% Semillon
Color:	Honey
Personality:	Sophisticated, nuanced, giving.
How many lots?	1
Previous Bottlings	Isidore Vineyard - 2018
Ageability	10 yrs easily
Best drinking	House : 2021-2031 TA : 2022-2027 RP : 2020-2028 (2018 vintage) This wine is made with skins, but very tightly wrapped without much oxygen. It has some serious phenolics. This is a white to age or an amber wine as they say in Georgia (the original Georgia with the Kvevris). We have put bottles away for a 2028 library release.

This wine is a tribute to the resilience of the Semillon Variety in the Maule—forgotten and neglected for decades. It was the second Fieldcraft bottling so we made it Lot # F2

The Vintage

2019 was a challenging vintage but we had a full posse of people harvesting with us that allowed to pick on time with our people. 2019 is a sharper steelier year with bright acid.

House note

Amber in color this wine smells of lemon, candle wax and bee pollen with a hint of flor / orange. In the mouth, lemon juice, candied lemon peel and a touch of bee pollen mixed with white flowers and honey (but without sweetness). High acid with faint chalky texture make this a mouthwatering package. Tasty and with time in the glass: vast. A portion of the wine sat on its skin for 11 months, but with little oxygen. 13% alcohol.

Hashtag
#gwcoisidorevineyard

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Critics Notes

Robert Parker – The Wine Advocate – Luis Gutierez
Isidore Vineyard Semillon Fieldcraft 2019 Maule Valley - Lot # F2 94 Pts

Vinous – Joaquin Hidalgo
Isidore Vineyard Semillon Fieldcraft 2019 Maule Valley - Lot # F2 94 Pts
The 2019 Semillón Lot # F2 Isidore Vineyard from Empedrado, Maule, was made in amphorae and tanks. Golden in hue. The aromatic nose presents honey, blackberry and herbs such as dull and fennel. Dry and austere on the palate, with great expression, it is as refreshing as it is exotic, while the tension keeps things buzzing throughout. An unusual, rich, ebullient wine that will delight aficionados.

Descorchados – Patricio Tapa
Isidore Vineyard Semillon Fieldcraft 2019 Maule Valley - Lot # F2 94 Pts
Garage buys the grapes for this semillon from a small, one-hectare vine- yard in the Sauzal zone of the Maule Valley's dry-farmed secano interior. It's an old vineyard, planted about 65 years ago, back when the variety was popular on the tables of Chile's capital. Today semillon is undergoing an important revival, and with this delicious white that's herbal yet rich in honeyed notes, we can include Garage in the group of producers trying to restore the grape's former glory. The texture is dense, and the tannins are firm, the product of skin contact for almost a year, which has given it an imposing, monolithic structure, although no bitterness, which is a common problem in wines of this style.

James Suckling
Isidore Vineyard Semillon Fieldcraft 2019 Maule Valley - Lot # F2 93 Pts
A medium-bodied white with aromas of gooseberry, chamomile, white pepper and lemon zest. Sleek, waxy and mineral with tangy, citrusy acidity. Good length. Drink or hold.

Tim Atkin MW
Isidore Vineyard Semillon Fieldcraft 2019 Maule Valley - Lot # F2 93 Pts

This small-volume Semillón hails from a one-hectare parcel of 65-year-old vines on decomposed granite soils. It's a tight, pithy, stony style with notes of lanolin, citrus peel and pink grapefruit, stony minerality, some grip from partial skin contact and a sappy quality from ageing in amphoras rather than oak. 2022-27

Notes on Previous Vintages of this wine

Robert Parker – The Wine Advocate – Luis Gutierez

Isidore Vineyard Semillon Fieldcraft 2018 Maule Valley - Lot # F1 94 Pts

A new "proper" white here, the 2018 Isidore Vineyard Maule Valley Semillon could very well be the finest Semillon I've ever had from Chile. It comes from a vineyard between Cauquenes and Sauzal that the González family farms by hand and horse. In the field, it's mixed with Sauvignon Blanc that was separated and sent to the local cooperative. Sixty percent of the volume fermented with skins in amphorae (tinaja) and the rest in tanks, all with native yeasts. The two parts matured separately for 11 months, and the part in amphorae went through malolactic, while the portion in stainless steel did not. It's all wild flowers and herbs and smells of the wild countryside in the spring, with intoxicating notes of pollen and beeswax. You don't really notice the skins of the amphorae; it's just a little darker, but that's all. It's amazingly tasty, almost salty, a white for food that should develop nicely in bottle. This has 13.8% alcohol, high acidity and low pH, the wonders of decomposed granite soil and ancestral farming… 1,300 bottles were filled in January 2019.

Tim Atkin MW

Isidore Vineyard Semillon Fieldcraft 2018 Maule Valley - Lot # F1 92 Pts

A 100-year-old parcel supplies the fruit for this impressive Semillón, which spends 11 months on skins and is partly fermented in clay pots, or tinajas. Fresh, textured and assertive, it has some subtle reduction, lime and citrus fruit and some tannic grip. 2020-24

Descorchados - Patricio Tapia

Isidore Vineyard Semillon Fieldcraft 2018 Maule Valley - Lot # F1 92 Pts

Este semillón viene de un viñedo viejo, en la zona de Sauzal. La mitad fue fermentada y criada en acero inoxidable y la otra, en tinajas de greda nuevas, con sus pieles, por 11 meses. El resultado es un vino muy fresco, con una acidez jugosa y taninos provenientes de esa maceración con las pieles y que le dan un agarre importante, pero sin exagerar. Este no es otro vino naranja imposible de beber, es un semillón de muy buen cuerpo para cerdo ahumado.

Anecdotal narrative / rant

Story of Fieldcraft Bottlings

The Secano Interior, or dry-farmed interior, is the cradle of Chilean viticulture dating back to the 1500's. Revived attention in wines from what are some of the oldest pre-phyloxera vines on the planet has led to interest and investment, but the machinations of the modern world do not always mesh with the gearing of the old. At Garage Wine Co. we have worked with small farmers in the Secano Interior ploughing the vines and cultivating the land for years now. We have built our small firm together. The vignerons' families have dry-farmed the Secano since colonial times, and not just their vineyards, but mixed farms of heritage seed wheat, free-range livestock, and local market gardening. Yet as South American wine exports have boomed over the last quarter century, it has grown increasingly difficult for these small growers to sell their grapes at a proper price.

Unfortunately, this success is isolated. In the region today, modern buyers want more for less and they would have the small modernise: ie spray instead of cultivate, scale instead of focus, and above all reduce the cost of labour. But the labour is precisely where you find the wisdom of farming passed down through the years: the fieldcraft if you will. With the pushing aside of this wisdom of farming down the ages, proper farming and fine wine are being undermined by short-term thinking.

At the Garage Wine Co. we think the wine trade is stronger with the small farmers in it—and the wines are too. In a world that wants more sustainably grown foods, these farmers have a 400+ year head-start.