



**Little Giant
2017 Sauvignon Blanc
Napa Valley**

Vineyard Location: Lamonica Vineyard, Napa Valley
Blend: 100% Sauvignon blanc

History: The “Little Giant” on the label is a tribute to the Newfoundland breed. These dogs are sturdy, loyal little giants that have been bred as a working dog on the eastern seaboard. Legend has it that these dogs were brought to sea and used to pull sailors back to the ship if they fell overboard in storms. In addition, they were known to actually tow small ships to shore by putting the aft lines in their mouths and swimming. Newfoundlands and great wine are two passions of Owner/Winemaker Chris Dearden. He has lived and produced fine wines in Napa Valley since 1986. A trained enologist from UC Davis, with an MBA from the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley, Dearden has pursued single vineyard wines for several Napa Valley clients and beginning in 2005, for his own Deardenwines labels. His wines have garnered both critical and consumer acclaim since 1995.

Vineyard/Winemaking: The fruit for this wine emanates from the Lamonica Vineyard in the Napa Valley. The location of the vineyard allows the delicate Sauvignon blanc grape to develop the best aromas and flavors for this varietal. Yields were small, and the green-golden clusters were whole-cluster pressed and cold settled prior to inoculation with a native yeast culture that produced a slow fermentation and retained aromatic esters. After a slow fermentation, the wine was racked off the “lees.” It was cold stabilized and prepared for bottling. The wine was bottled while fresh and fruity and full of varietal character.

Tasting Notes: The 2017 Sauvignon blanc possesses not only the grassy, melony characteristics of the varietal, but also much desired floral and fruity aromas and flavors such as peach, green apple and pear. This wine is great for all occasions and all climates. In cold months it pairs well with cream based pastas and fish stews and in late spring, summer and fall months, it is a refreshing wine to quaff or pair with Petrale Sole, Chicken Caesar Salads and Oysters Rockefeller or on the half. It is meant to be enjoyed in its youth, but will age for 3-5 years.