

# BRANDER VINEYARDS

## Au Naturel Sauvignon Blanc 2021

Los Olivos District AVA, Santa Ynez Valley, California

### ESTATE

Brander Vineyard is one of Santa Barbara County's legacy wineries, and founder Fred Brander is rightly considered a pioneer in the region. After completing studies at UC Davis, he interned with David Stare at Dry Creek Vineyard, and in 1975 planted a 40-acre vineyard just outside Los Olivos. Fred's interest in France's Bordeaux region led him to specialize in Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon, and his early success showed the potential for these varieties in the warmer regions of the county. His firm belief in the uniqueness of his vineyard's microclimate led him to pursue an AVA specific to the area, and in 2016 the Los Olivos District was approved. Brander produces Cabernet Sauvignon and a range of stylistic Sauvignon Blanc bottlings, including single-vineyard wines. His Sauvignon Blancs are widely considered California benchmarks for the variety.

### WINE

Au Naturel is made from the finest lots of Brander's estate vineyards, carefully selected each year by the winemaking team. Attentive and diligent winemaking further define the character of the wine, with only free run juice used and careful lees aging building the rich yet delicate structure of the wine. The wine shows a concentrated and luscious profile, bristling with bright tropical fruit and tempered by a stony backbone.

### VINEYARD

All the grapes come from the Brand Estate Vineyard, with a rigorous selection process determined each year by the winemaking team. High diurnal shifts in the area allow sufficient ripening during the day while preserving acidity at night.

### WINEMAKING

*Harvest:* Manual, beginning in the middle of September

*Variety:* 100% Estate Sauvignon Blanc

*Fermentation:* Destemmed, into stainless steel with 30-60 minutes of skin contact. Only free-run juice is used

*Aging:* 7 months in stainless steel, most of which is spent on the lees. Malolactic fermentation is prevented.

*Alcohol:* 14.5%

### VINTAGE

A high-quality vintage, with a long and cool growing season creating a chiseled and precise product.



## WINE ENTHUSIAST

93

*"Cut grass, dark green herbs and yellow apple aromas show on the nose of this bottling. It's very lean on the palate with a zippy, energetic acidity that cuts right through the cement, crushed stone and serrano flavors, engaging the palate on all sides."* - MATT KETTMAN, 12/1/2022

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Vinous