



2006 ALTAMURA SAUVIGNON BLANC

94 pts

One of the most interesting wines I've had lately (and one of the top-scoring wines in this report) is the Altamura Sauvignon Blanc Napa

Valley 2006. This wine comes from a dry-farmed, low-tonnage vineyard where the berries are small and the skins get thick.

Vintner Frank Altamura whole-cluster presses the grapes and then puts them immediately into 100 percent new French oak barrels for about 18 months. Despite all that richness, there's a wonderful acidity that keeps it light on its feet. I detected a pleasant whiff of botrytis, and Altamura agreed that this vineyard is known for getting a bit of "noble rot," adding a honeyed note to the fruit flavors.

Wine Spectator

91 pts

Robert Parker

Another tasty offering is the French-inspired 2006 Sauvignon Blanc, which is aged 18 months in neutral wood. Lively notes of melon, mango, nectarine, and honeyed citrus are accompanied by terrific fruit, dry, medium-bodied flavors, and a crisp, zesty finish. It should provide plenty of pleasure over the next 1-2 years.



Altamura continues to impress me, not only for their Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc, but also for one of the finest California Sangioveses money can buy.