

VERAMONTE

RITUAL

NEYEN



93 2016 Veramonte • Ritual Alcaparral Block Syrah: The nose of the 2016 Ritual Alcaparral Block Syrah is intensely varietal, with an intoxicating blend of black olives, violets, smoked bacon and tar reminiscent of a cool-climate Northern Rhône. This comes from their higher-altitude vineyards in Casablanca and has an elegant and nuanced profile that is beautifully textured and with very fine tannins and a great mouthfeel. You can see the variety, the place and the vintage here. Bravo!



92+ 2017 Veramonte • Ritual Monster Block Pinot Noir: The harmonious and serious 2017 Ritual Monster Block Pinot Noir has some Mediterranean touches (fennel) but is reasonably restrained for a warm and dry year. They used some full clusters for the fermentation, and that might have added some freshness. The oak is neatly folded into the fruit, and the wine is a little more generous than the more austere 2016 but still subtle, balanced and tasty.

92 2015 Veramonte • Neyen: I find the 2015 Neyen quite ripe and powerful, with a Mediterranean character, faintly earthy and dusty with aromas of esparto grass and aromatic herbs. It's a full-bodied, powerful and concentrated red blend of 55% Cabernet sauvignon and 45% Carmenere. It has grainy tannins and a faint chalkiness.



91 2018 Veramonte • Ritual Sauvignon Blanc: The super austere and serious 2018 Ritual Sauvignon Blanc is not really very varietal and has more restrained aromas, more about texture and mouthfeel. It has pungent and tasty flavors, with vibrant acidity and a great mouthfeel. 6,600 bottles produced.



91 2016 Veramonte • Primus The Blend: The 2016 Primus The Blend faintly is reductive and in need of some air. It's a blend of 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Carménère, 10% Petit Verdot, 5% Merlot, 5% Syrah and 5% Cabernet Franc from Colchagua matured in 5,000-liter oak foudres and barriques for some 12 to 14 months. It has power and elegance, very good integration of all the varieties. It has nuance and complexity beyond the price point.



91 2018 Veramonte • Ritual Chardonnay: There is a savory overall sensation in the 2018 Ritual Chardonnay that I like very much. Like most of the wines, it feels more a wine from a place than a variety; it is serious, balanced and fresh, with the salinity of the granite soils of Casablanca Valley. It has contained ripeness and very integrated, almost imperceptible oak.

91 2016 Veramonte • Primus Cabernet Sauvignon: The impressive 2016 Primus Cabernet Sauvignon shows peppery varietal character, restraint and austerity, corresponding to a cool year like 2016. It has abundant, fine-grained tannins and a dry and serious finish.



90 2017 Veramonte • Ritual Pinot Noir: Obviously, the 2017 Ritual Pinot Noir feels ripe, the product of a warm and dry year. It is quite expressive and open, quite varietal and clean, with red fruit and floral aromas and a serious mouthfeel with very fine and chalky tannins. The oak is very integrated, and the wine feels harmonious and has good freshness.

