

ORIGIN

San Juan Island, Washington State.

VARIETIES

Wild apples and foraged blackberries.

VINEYARD

All of the fruit for the Blackberry come from foraged fruit (from wild-growing blackberries and untended apple trees) on San Juan Island near the winery.

VINIFICATION METHOD

The apples were harvested by hand, then processed at the cellar with a tiny apple chipper and pressed in a small manually operated basket press lined with local hay. The pressed juice was added by hand to glass demijohns to ferment with native yeasts and without temperature control. Foraged blackberries were added to the fermenting apple juice to macerate, lending color and flavor. When fermentation was nearly finished, the wine was racked once off the dense lees, and bottled by hand with a small amount of residual sugar to finish fermentation in the ancestral method.

PROPERTIES

Alcohol: 7%
Total Sulfur: None added.



PRODUCER PROFILE

Niccolo Coturri and Tess Bryant founded Piquenique in San Juan Island, Washington in 2019. Relocating from California, they found in this northwestern corner of the United States a nascent, mostly unknown wine region blessed with a favorable climate, heirloom fruit varieties, and a long history of fruit cultivation. They brought with them a deep background in natural wine: Nic as a winemaker and winegrower, and Tess as an importer. Under the Piquenique label, they are working with the mixed bounty of fruits present on the San Juan Islands and in the Salish Sea area: sourcing from old, organically farmed orchards and vineyards they work with apples, pears, plums, quince, blackberries, medlars and grapes. The approach in their small winery on San Juan Island is transparent, reflecting their shared background and tastes. They work with manually operated equipment and without any additions, never using added yeasts, sulfur, or sugars in the fermentation or élevage of their sparkling Ancestral Method wines.

VINTAGE REPORT

2021 was hot and dry overall, with reduced yields and premature ripening and harvests. The main culprit was the so-called heat dome over the Pacific Northwest, which raised temperature to over 90 degrees for more than a week straight in July.