



gc  
WINES

## 2021 Melon de Bourgogne

**Winery Name:** GC Wines

**Owner/Winemaker:** John Grochau

**Associate Winemaker:** Aurelien Labrosse

**Year Founded:** 2002

**Winery Location:** In the Eola-Amity Hills above Amity, Oregon (Willamette Valley)

**About:** John Grochau was first introduced to wine and the winemaking landscape in his early 20's, while racing bicycles for a French team in the Loire Valley. After 10 years in restaurants and 4 years working in wineries, he started Grochau Cellars in 2002. The goal has always been to make wines that are balanced, textured and expressive of place. Inspired by the diversity of the Willamette Valley's soils and microclimates, we source grapes from 15 different vineyards. While Pinot Noir is our focus, we are always pushing in new directions and exploring new varieties that include, Gamay Noir, Melon de Bourgogne and Trousseau. We constantly experiment with new fermentation and aging techniques to create unique expressions of a varietal, or to bring some subtle nuance to a larger cuvée.

**Vineyards:** Our Melon de Bourgogne comes from Stavig Vineyard located about 15 miles away from Portland in Happy Valley, Oregon. The vineyard is an old riverbed with fairly rocky soils and volcanic overlays. The rocky composition harkens to Muscadet's gravelly soils in the western Loire Valley.

**Vintage:** The 2021 vintage was a unique growing season in the Willamette Valley. The year started much the same as it has for twenty years, with bud break beginning in mid-April. The summer was hotter and dryer than usual, with new record high temperatures in the Willamette Valley. Despite the intense heat, we picked grapes with balanced sugars and acids, giving us wine that is immediately charming, with vibrant fruit and supple textures.

**Winemaking:** Bright and lean, full of lime and green papaya fruit. This wine is lithe, but with a good amount of body due to 8 months of sur lie aging. 70% of the wine was fermented in concrete eggs, and 30% was fermented in Acacia wood barrels.

**Case Production:** 238 cases.



