

## Covenant Wines Mensch Roussanne Lodi 2022

Selected by: Master Sommelier Evan Goldstein, Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon, and Master Sommelier Tim Gaiser



### Final Deductions

**VINTAGE** 2022  
**GRAPE** Rhône Blend (White)  
**GEOGRAPHY** Not Europe  
**COUNTRY** USA  
**LARGER REGION** California  
**SMALLER REGION** Lodi

### Rationale

Sadly, this rich, honeyed grape variety of Roussanne is disappearing from the vineyards of Hermitage and other appellations in the northern Rhône where it once held court. But Roussanne is a grape you should know. Amazingly, even though it comes across as rich and exotic, with an apparent lack of structure, it can hold that pose for years... without botox!

Roussanne's roots lie in the central Rhône valley. Precisely when it originated is not known, but the grape's more recent history is well documented. The best wines are rich, silky and balanced, with a panoply of tropical and ripe stone fruit flavors.

True Roussanne was believed to have arrived in California in the 1980s, but the original source of California Roussanne turned out to be Viognier. It's evident that even in today's world of modern genetic testing and carefully propagated cuttings, one mistake in sourcing a varietal type can have far-reaching consequences. Not until the 1990s were real cuttings of Roussanne planted.

Nestled among the urban wineries in Berkeley's Gilman District, Jeff Morgan's Covenant Winery offers a wine oasis unlike any other. From its 9,000 square-foot wine cellar to its outdoor wine garden and patio, Covenant serves up a broad-based selection of world class wines produced with native yeast and organically and sustainably grown grapes. This Roussanne is sourced from grower Larry Mettler's vineyard in Lodi, one of the best sources of the grape in the greater Delta region.

### Sight

**BRIGHTNESS** Star Bright  
**CLARITY** Clear  
**COLOR DEPTH** Light  
**COLOR** Yellow  
**HIGHLIGHTS** Green  
**BUBBLES** No

### Structure

**RESIDUAL SUGAR** Dry  
**ACID** Med+  
**ALCOHOL** Medium  
**PHENOLS** Low  
**TEXTURE** Round / Smooth  
**FINISH** Long  
**COMPLEXITY** Med+

### Aroma & Taste

**CITRUS FRUIT** Meyer Lemon • Orange • Lemon • Mandarin *Condition: Ripe, Custard / Yogurt* *Part: Flesh*  
**TREE/VINE FRUIT** Apple (Yellow) • Pear (Asian) • Pear (Yellow/Brown) *Condition: Fresh, Ripe*  
**STONE FRUIT** Apricot • Plum (Green/Yellow) • Nectarine (White) • Nectarine (Yellow)  
*Condition: Fresh, Ripe*  
**TROPICAL FRUIT** Mango • Guava • Melon (Orange) *Condition: Fresh, Ripe*  
**FLORAL** Honeysuckle • Jasmine • Freesia *Condition: Fresh*  
**GREEN VEGETABLE** Olive (Green) • Caper  
**HERBAL** Lemon Grass • Saffron • Sorrel • Verbena  
**OTHER SPICES** Ginger Powder • Sesame / Candy • Chinese Five Spice  
**ORGANIC EARTH** Turned Dirt / Potting Soil  
**INORGANIC EARTH** Mineral / Rock  
**ANIMAL** Musk  
**OAK AGING** Yes *Oak Intensity: Low*  
**OAK INFLUENCE** Used Barrique