



## *Stags' Leap*

### JUST LIKE EATING HEAVEN: FOOD FROM THE KITCHEN GARDEN

The Stags' Leap Winery 2002 Viognier is redolent with caramel, the fragrance of orange blossom and the luscious depth of a tree ripened peach. This wine evokes Spring, in all her lushness, fullness, brimming green and sparkle of sunlight, warm, like the days that finally become longer. This Viognier is like the sun of Spring, like the first blossoms to arrive, daffodil, narcissus, mustard and plum. This wine evokes the rushing of water in flowing creeks and the electric pulse life offers after the winter resigns. This wine celebrates Garden and Flowering and The Return of Light.

At the Leap, just west of the croquet lawn, is an old orchard. Reminiscent of the old estate days, it watches the moon garden on bright nights when the moonlight illuminates the white and silver plantings. This orchard is sentry to the vineyards and the pathway up to the palisades above the property.

In the later months of Spring, these trees are laden with peaches and plums. The depth of flavor of an old heirloom tree can attest to a simple truth; there is nothing quite like it.

Above the Winemaker's Apothecary Garden, behind the Carriage House, are two enormous Meyer Lemon trees...boughs laying on the ground, each branch overloaded with fruit and blossom. The trees are heady with aromatic delight. One swoons at their nearness. Nearby, in the Apothecary Garden a plethora of scented geranium varieties are planted...lime, rose, peach, ginger...

From these scented miracles we glean the ingredients to adorn our Salmon...caught in the wild from the coastal seas that lay to the west of the Leap, the great pacific sea that all the vines and orchard and coyote and raven and winery crew know of...the inexplicable amniotic awareness of big water, though many miles from her presence. The siren calls to the earth in a song of connection and longing. The siren longs for Viognier

to accompany her Salmon, the Meyer Lemon longs for the peach and peach longs for the  
Ginger Scented Geranium.

— Shannon Hughes

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Stags' Leap Winery 6150 Silverado Trail, Napa, CA 94556

<http://www.stagsleap.com/> [stagsleap@BeringerBlass.com](mailto:stagsleap@BeringerBlass.com)

(800) 640-LEAP (5327) (707) 944-1303 Fax: (707) 944-9433