

Hidden Bench Winery 2007 Nuit Blanche - \$40.00 (W)

www.hidenbench.com

Those looking for translation of this wine's name and feel their French may be a little too rusty to be of any help to figure it out, will be happy to know that the wine's name does mean "Night White" – and no it is not a nod to the Gregory Hines film White Nights ... I will go out on a limb here and suspect that it is aptly named because this wine is a "night time wine". Daytime wines are light and fruity affairs; night wines have power and heft; this one has a little of both, but is probably best consumed when the sun settles in the sky. The smells emanating from the glass are ones of fruit with a bit of vanilla, lemon and some smoky notes. The wine is a blend of Sauvignon Blanc (89%) and Semillon (11%) that has a barrel fermented aspect to it; so those looking for those fresh, crisp Sauvignon Blanc flavours will be (only slightly) disappointed ... which is what makes this a night time wine. There's a creamy texture in the mouth (opposed to crisp), with toasty notes, vanilla, lemon cream and all comes together with delightful acidity that balances everything off just right. A wine to be sipped and enjoyed throughout the night – a white for night: "blanche pour nuit" if you will. Price: \$40.00 – Rating: ****

Michael Pinkus October 29, 2009