

H A R V E S T E D : 9/28/2019

BRIX AVG:25.0

BLEND:

100% SYRAH

ACIDITY: 5.1 p H : 3 . 9 5 ALCOHOL: 14.7%

AGING:

14 MONTHS FRENCH OAK BARRELS 40% NEW

BOTTLED:

12/17/2020

CASES PRODUCED:

300

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2019SYRAH

VARIETAL/VINEYARD: Our 2019 Syrah is a blend of four clones planted on our winery property in 1998. This site, which has a cooler micro-climate than our Benchland vineyard, highlights the olive, blueberry, and agave side of Syrah. The 2019, like the preceding four vintages, delivered a wine that represents a Northern Rhône-style Syrah, which is rare for this appellation.

VINTAGE: Heavy rainfall in February allowed us to essentially "dry farm" our vines in 2019. The summer growing season was warm but moderate, allowing for superior flavor and tannin development, as evidenced by slightly later than normal harvest dates. A warmer September helps balance the cooler morning temperatures we see in our Creekside and Winery Syrah blocks which lead to riper and darker fruit, producing a bold, more concentrated wine. Combined with our strict crop-thinning protocol, 2019 will definitely go down as a great vintage for Dry Creek Valley reds.

WINEMAKING: We ferment our Syrah in small open-top tanks. After a 5day cold soak, fermentation begins with indigenous yeasts. Cap management consists of punch-downs for pump overs twice daily. Once dry, the pomace is basket-pressed, blended with free-run wine, and transferred into barrels. A small portion of this wine was whole-cluster fermented, enhancing aromas. Our Syrah was aged in French oak barrels, 40% new, for 14 months.

STYLE/DESCRIPTION: Ripe black and blue brambly fruits highlight the aroma with well integrated notes of fig, agave, and olive that are hallmarks of this blend of Syrah clones. The 2019 features a richly textured palate of blackberry, fig, plum reduction, and dark spices with ripe and opulent tannins. A dense core develops into a long, savory finish. This vintage reflects the style of modern Cornas wines in the Northern Rhône, a long-time Unti family favorite. Overall a rich, expressive, and seamless version that heavily features the 20+ year old Creekside Block of Syrah that shows its' really coming into it's own, one of our favorites to date.

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