

U N T I

D R Y C R E E K V A L L E Y

C U V É E F O U D R E

2 0 2 1

60% GRENACHE • 30% SYRAH • 10% MOURVÈDRE

GROWN, PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY UNTI VINEYARDS

HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA ALCOHOL 14.9% BY VOLUME

H A R V E S T E D :
SEPT.17 - OCT. 4, 2021

B R I X A V G :
25.1

B L E N D :
60% GRENACHE
30% SYRAH
10% MOURVEDRE

A C I D I T Y : 5.1 g/L
p H : 3.85
A L C O H O L : 14.9%

A G I N G :
14 MONTHS FRENCH OAK
FOUDRE

B O T T L E D :
1 / 3 1 / 2 3

C A S E S P R O D U C E D :
275

W W W . U N T I V I N E Y A R D S . C O M

C U V É E F O U D R E 2 0 2 1

VARIETAL/VINEYARD: Cuvée Foudre comes from three of our finest vineyard blocks: Alban clone Grenache, Tablas Creek clone Mourvedre, and Syrah clones 174/ 877, all planted in 1998 on the winery parcel. These have proven to be our most Rhône-like vineyard blocks. We aggressively reduce the crop during the growing season to facilitate the concentration of aromas, flavors, and structure. All of our vineyards are farmed organically.

VINTAGE: Even though 2021 could be considered another drought year, the vintage benefited from winter 2020 rains that carried us through a fairly moderate growing season. Though the core winter months had relatively low rainfall, they were cold enough to keep us on track for a typical late March to early April bud-break. This gave way to a warm, dry spring with the exception of some strong winds that occurred during flowering, which may have played some role in lowering the yields.

WINEMAKING: Over the years we have learned that to make a full-bodied and complex Grenache-based red, you need to maintain low yields in order to obtain full ripeness. 2021 was such an excellent vintage for Grenache that we used all our Grenache lots for Cuvée Foudre, resulting in 60% of the blend. All of these lots were fermented in either small open-top and concrete tanks. We age this wine in a 620-gallon large oak cask the French call a “foudre”. We prefer large casks for our Grenache blends because they preserve the primary fruit character without imparting oak.

STYLE/DESCRIPTION: Cuvée Foudre is our version of a full-bodied Rhône blend worthy of Châteauneuf Du Pape. 2021 was a particularly strong vintage for Grenache thanks to a naturally low crop set. The blend is 60% Grenache from our Alban clone vines, 30% Syrah from clones 174 and 877, and 10% Mourvedre, all planted in 1998. It was aged in a 620-gallon foudre, which is neutral. I love this vintage because it is quintessential Unti, meaning it straddles the line between robust Rhône and ethereal Burgundy. Who knew a Grenache blend could be so sophisticated? The '21 will improve over the next 3-4 years and last another 5. - MU