

HARVESTED:SEPTEMBER 8, 2022
OCTOBER 10, 2022

AGING:

14 MONTHS NEUTRAL FRENCH OAK BARRELS AND FOUDRE

BRIX AVG:

25.2

BOTTLED:

2/14/24

BLEND:

75% GRENACHE 25% SYRAH

CASES PRODUCED:

275

ACIDITY:4.7 g/L **p H** : 3 . 8 6

ALCOHOL:14.9%

VARIETAL/VINEYARD: This Southern Rhône-style wine is 75% Grenache and 25% Syrah. The primary component of this blend comes from a 2.9-acre block planted in 1998 to three selections of Grenache Noir and Mourvedre, using bud-wood originally obtained from Tablas Creek and Alban Vineyards. These selections, originally from Châteauneuf-du-Pape, give darker color and better structure than the majority of Grenache planted in California. Over the years we have learned how important crop-thinning is to making compelling Grenache-based wine. It is the difference between Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Côte-du-Rhône. The Syrah in this blend comes from the Durrell clone located on our oldest blocks on site. Our vines are planted on low-vigor rootstock to 4'x 6' spacing.

VINTAGE: 2022 began with a dry winter that transitioned into a cooler spring with some intermittent light rains, wind and cold spells. These ultimately played a role in naturally lowering our yields through the estate. Lower yields especially benefit our white and rosé blocks because it enables us to achieve ideal aromatic and flavor development along with uniformity in ripeness. Finally in mid-August we experienced much warmer temperatures that persisted until mid-September, finishing off the ripening process with full, expressive aromatic and flavor development. Such conditions are a hallmark characteristic of the best expressions of these varietals.

WINEMAKING: We de-stem the berries and pump them into small open-top tanks for fermentation. After a five-day cold-soak, the fermentation began spontaneously with indigenous yeast and lasted a little over two weeks. We have found that lower yields can provide plenty of complexity and structure, which is apparent in this 2022. As is done in the Rhône, we blend Syrah for additional depth and structure. Our Syrah includes some whole clusters to enhance floral, spicy aromas. The wine is aged in neutral oak barrels and foudre to preserve the vineyard character.

STYLE/DESCRIPTION: The 2022 Grenache really highlights the prettier side of the varietal, featuring complex raspberry, pepper and floral aromas that seem almost Pinot Noir-like. Medium to full-bodied with nice balance and texture, it's a great example of Grenache from our vineyards in Dry Creek. - MU