

U N T I

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

S Y R A H

B E N C H L A N D

2 0 2 2

GROWN, PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY UNTI VINEYARDS

HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA ALCOHOL 14.6% BY VOLUME

HARVESTED:
SEPTEMBER 8&9, 2022

BRIX AVG:
25.1

BLEND:
100% SYRAH

ACIDITY: 5.5 g/L
pH: 3.89
ALCOHOL: 14.7%

AGING:
17 MONTHS
FRENCH OAK BARRELS
40% NEW

BOTTLED:
4/17/24

CASES PRODUCED:
100

2 0 2 2 S Y R A H B E N C H L A N D

VARIETAL/VINEYARD: Our Syrah Benchland was planted in 1991, making it our oldest vineyard block. Our Syrah bud wood came from the Durell vineyard in Sonoma. The chalky, rocky, and well-drained soils have always produced small berries that result in a dark and intense wine. There is an unmistakable smoked meat element to wine from this vineyard, making it our most unique Syrah.

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. Ideal harvest conditions of dry, moderate weather allowed us to achieve fully ripened, but balanced fruit.

WINEMAKING: Our winemaking for this Syrah is consistent and straightforward. It was fermented in both small stainless steel and concrete open top tanks, which provides excellent extraction. We destemmed the fruit, as we have not had great success using whole cluster fermentation with this vineyard. After a 5-day cold soak, fermentation began with indigenous yeast. We punched down the cap twice a day and pressed at dryness. Since this is one of our more full-bodied wines, we aged it in 40% new French Oak barrels for 17 months. It is 100% Syrah.

STYLE/DESCRIPTION: 2021 was a remarkable vintage — the best since 2007 thanks to a naturally low crop-set that combined with an even-ripening growing season. Opaque in color, the '21 Benchland Syrah has intense blackberry and blueberry fruit along with the savory character we have come to expect from this vineyard. Considering its concentration and tannin structure, the '21 has fantastic balance, which should allow it to age well for at least 10 years. - MU