



2014 Grenache

ESTATE GROWN AND BOTTLED
SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

Winery History

Our wines are made from sustainably farmed grapes that are estate grown, produced and bottled. With over 40 years of grape growing experience in the Santa Ynez Valley, our winemaking and vineyard teams meticulously farm our vineyard to focus on terroir-driven wines. We began growing Rhône varieties in 1978 when we were the first to plant Syrah in Santa Barbara County. Since then, we have determined that varietals planted in the Rhône Valley of France are best suited to our estate.

Our Estate

Situated less than 30 miles from the Pacific Ocean, our vineyard is composed mainly of Chamise Shaly Loam. These are well-drained soils that developed over gravelly beds of silt, clay, diatomaceous shale and other sandy water-deposited materials. These soils are on dissected terraces (or mesas) with elevations between 1300 and 1500 feet above sea level. This high elevation combined with cool ocean breezes allow our grapes to retain their natural acidity. Since 1997, the winery has replanted more than half of its original vines with high-density plantings of Rhône varietals with new rootstock and clone combinations.

Growing Season and Harvest

2014 marked another exceptionally dry year in Santa Barbara County. Unseasonably warm winter temps awoke the vines from their slumber a month earlier than normal. Luckily, spring was frost-free and warm, allowing the clusters to pollinate without interruption. A lack of fog in May, June and July along with warm summer temperatures sped up the ripening process, leading to one of the earliest harvests on record.

Winemaking

After hand-harvesting, the Grenache grapes were gently de-stemmed and fermented in a closed-top tank to retain the grape's beautiful aromatics. Once dry, the wine was racked into mostly older French oak barrique and puncheon barrels for sixteen months, until it was blended and bottled.

The Wine

Originally from Spain, where it is known as Garnacha, the Grenache grape found its second home in the warm Mediterranean climate of France's Southern Rhône Valley. While traditionally used as a blending grape, we've found that our site produces a distinctive Grenache, featuring a balanced, elegant style.

Our 2014 Grenache has complex aromas and flavors of tart black cherry, black raspberry, dusty herbs, anise and dried rose petal. 2014's hot and dry growing conditions led to a rich Grenache with aromatic complexity, gorgeous tannins, and intense fruit flavors.

~ Eric, Kristin, Agustin, Ruben, Jose, Angel, Gregorio & Ramirez
Winemaking and Vineyard team



TECHNICAL NOTES

Vineyard Blocks	Zaca Mesa Vineyards Cushman F, Mariposa A/C/J
Composition	88% Grenache, 8% Cinsault 3.5% Syrah .5% Mourvèdre,
Harvest	September 11th to September 16th 2014
Cooperage	15 months in French Oak; 15% new
Bottled	February 10, 2016
Total Acidity	0.675 g/100 mL
PH	3.38
Alcohol	14.5%
Production	508 cases