



2013 SONOMA COAST GRENACHE

2013 Sonoma Coast Grenache

Grenache is the most widely planted grape in the southern Rhône Valley, and said to be the second most widely planted varietal in the world. It is most often blended (with Syrah and Mourvèdre in France and Australia, and with Tempranillo in Rioja), but reaches its peak in the wines of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, where it comprises 70% of the appellation's acreage.

The 2013 growing season was marked with little rainfall, began with early bud break and stayed that way all season to harvest. Fruit-set was excellent with even veraison and ripening. Temperatures from spring through summer were temperate with highs rarely reaching over the mid-90s. Rains that hurt some earlier vintages never happened giving us signs of the bad draught conditions to come. Harvest was early and the only challenge was getting sugars and flavors in right balance.

The Grenache for this wine continues from the same vineyard sourcing which allows a very long, even growing season because of its cool location. Harvest was completed during the third week of September. The fruit was handpicked and fermented in a small bin with twice daily manual punch-downs. Fermentation lasted one and a half weeks and after very gentle pressing, the wine was racked to once-used French oak barrels. The wine was aged for 17 months with no racking or movement of the wine performed during the aging.

We were lucky as even though all our barrels experienced falling off their racks with other barrels on the August 24th, 2014 earthquake. No wine was lost.

Winemaker Tasting Notes:

The 2012 Grenache possesses elegant aromatics of bright cherries, strawberries and fresh flowers. On the palate this is a juicy, vibrant wine giving a mix of bright fruit yet dark concentration. Flavors of currants, black cherries and subtle spices mix with nicely balanced acidity. Soft, elegant tannins are present to give great volume to the palate and length to the finish. Oak impact is light to only give volume without strong oak flavors.

60 Cases Produced

17 Months in once used French oak

Alcohol, 14.2%

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