



## HARVEST

Santa Barbara County experienced a very mild, warm growing season in 2013. The vines budded out early and though the season overall was short on precipitation, some late rains in March helped the soil water profiles. Harvest was early with near perfect conditions for ripening. Overall yields were good and quality was excellent.

## VINEYARDS

This wine brings together three different varietals from two distinct vineyards, each with a unique terroir. The Grenache and Syrah are from the Estelle Vineyard in the heart of Santa Ynez Valley. The estate features gently rolling slopes with warm days and cool, foggy nights. The Mourvèdre is from the Santa Barbara Highlands Vineyard located at the far eastern edge of Santa Barbara County. The vineyard is situated at a high elevation where it is quite warm during the day, but cools off dramatically at night.

## WINEMAKING

The Syrah and Grenache were picked together in the field and were co-fermented. This process allowed for maximum fruit expression of the Grenache, with great color extraction of the riper Syrah. The Mourvèdre was fermented separately. All grapes were hand harvested and crushed into small fermentation bins. Following a two-day cold soak, the lots were inoculated with D254 yeast to initiate the primary fermentation. Maximum extraction was achieved by punching down the cap four times daily during peak fermentation, then twice daily until dry. After pressing, the wine was transferred to French and American oak barrels where it underwent malo-lactic fermentation and aged for 15 months.

## TASTING NOTES

This Rhône-style blend is a deliciously expressive wine. It exhibits bold flavors of ripe blueberry, boysenberry and raspberry. Subtle notes of nutmeg and caramel apple are balanced by the elegant oak notes that lead to a smooth, medium finish.

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Varietal:	51% Grenache, 45% Syrah, 4% Mourvèdre	T.A.:	6.7 g/L
Appellation:	Santa Ynez Valley	pH:	3.61
Vineyard:	Estelle, Santa Barbara Highland	Alcohol:	14.1%
Harvest:	September 25, 2013	Bottling:	December 2014
Oak Aging:	15 months	Production:	150 cases