



## 2014 Syrah

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 Syrah grapes were placed into small open-top bins to ferment. During fermentation, grape skins were punched down twice a day, resulting in a wine of intense color, rich flavors and fine tannins. The wine was then placed into mostly neutral French oak barrels for 16 months.

### The Wine

In 1978, we pioneered Syrah in Santa Barbara County and became recognized as a world-renowned producer of the varietal. We maintain this commitment through vineyard experimentation, including new high-density plantings with multiple Syrah clones. This diversity of vine age and clones combined with our soil and climate delivers a Syrah with complexity, balance, depth and typicity.

Our 2014 Syrah has both richness and elegance, displaying complex aromas and flavors of bright blackberry, spiced plum, raspberry, dried violets, pepper and savory sage spice. A touch of smoky oak enhances the wine's long and balanced finish.

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



TECHNICAL NOTES	
<b>Vineyard Blocks</b>	Zaca Mesa Vineyards: 70% Mesa A & B, 30% Chapel G
<b>Composition</b>	100% Syrah
<b>Harvest</b>	August 25th to September 25th, 2014
<b>Cooperage</b>	16 months in French Oak; 20% new
<b>Bottled</b>	May 2016
<b>Total Acidity</b>	0.699 g/100 mL
<b>PH</b>	3.57
<b>Alcohol</b>	14.2%
<b>Production</b>	11,287 cases