



2015 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 varieties 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 varieties with new rootstock and clone combinations.

Growing Season and Harvest

2015 was the fourth consecutive year of drought in Santa Barbara. A warm and dry winter led to an early-February bud-break. Spring was quite warm, but the month of May brought cool and windy weather, interrupting pollination and leading to a small crop. Warmer ocean temps influenced by El Niño had a big impact on our summer weather, amplifying the summer-time heat and limiting our typical night-time cooling. The heat accelerated the development of the grapes and led to our earliest harvest 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 fifteen months, until it was blended with some Syrah 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, then eventually made its way to the California coast where it thrives in our summer warmth with cool, ocean breezes. Our 2015 Grenache has complex aromas and flavors of black cherry, raspberry liquor, dusty herbs, anise and dried rose petal.

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



TECHNICAL NOTES

Vineyard Blocks	Zaca Mesa Vineyards Cushman F & Mariposa C
Composition	93% Grenache, 7% Syrah
Harvest	September 1, 2015
Cooperage	15 months in French Oak; 100% neutral
Bottled	February 7, 2017
Total Acidity	0.638 g/100 mL
PH	3.42
Alcohol	14.5%
Production	409 cases