

Sarah's Vineyard

Central Coast
Santa Clara Valley
California



2015

Madonna Estate

72% Grenache, 16% Syrah, 8% Mourvedre,
4% Carignane

Winemaker

Tim Slater

Wine Color

Red

Wine Type

Still

% Alcohol

14.6

RS (gm/l)

0.0 (g/L)

TA (g/L) / pH

5.3(g/L) / 3.52 pH

Case Production

293

Tasting Notes

Reflecting its Southern Rhone heritage: the nose has a vast black fruit presence of cherries and berries. It is also showing a lovely floral characteristic, with hints of black licorice, cinnamon and cocoa powder. On the palate, flavors of raspberry and tea leaf are prominent with notes of pepper, oregano, and thyme, with leather and spice on the finish. A perfect accompaniment to grilled lamb skewers with roasted cauliflower and garlic.

Winemaker Notes

Our estate vineyards bridge the historic Santa Clara Valley and the cooler climate "Mt. Madonna" district of the southern Santa Cruz Mountains. Here fog and winds from nearby Monterey Bay dramatically cool down the estate, extending the growing season and providing unique conditions for complex Rhone cultivars. The 2015 vintage occurred during another drought year in California. Yields at harvest were about "average." With no early fall precipitation, though, we were able to let the fruit hang for full phenolic ripeness and balanced flavors and acidity. We hand harvested the fruit during the last week of September and the first week of October that year. After destemming the whole berries, we fermented at low temperatures in small lot vats. Hand punch downs were used prior to pressing to French oak barrels for twenty months aging in primarily neutral cooperage to preserve the exceptional, complex fruit. The final blend of 72% Grenache, 16% Syrah, 8% Mourvèdre, and 4% Counoise was bottled in late March of 2017.



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