



2022 "A" CUVÉE SYRAH

Appellation	Santa Barbara County
T.A.	6.4 g/l
pH	3.78
Alcohol	14.5%
Production	124 cases

VINEYARDS

80% Nolan Vineyard, 20% John Sebastiano Vineyard

The Nolan Vineyard is a moderately cool site, located in the Los Alamos Valley of Santa Barbara County in the newly created Alisos Canyon AVA. The vineyard is composed of dense, mineral-rich soils with large deposits of limestone. John Sebastiano Vineyard, located at the eastern end of Sta. Rita Hills, is planted on steep hillsides with fine clay-loam soils. The vines struggle to ripen in the cool westerly marine winds, resulting in great concentration and dramatic aromas and flavors.

VINTAGE

The 2022 harvest was tracking to be a little later than usual due to cool summer weather, but Labor Day weekend brought a significant heat bump which accelerated the pace. Berry size was smaller than average, which resulted in smaller yields across the appellation this year. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay were picked quickly in the first two weeks of September. Then the weather cooled a bit and ripening slowed, with Syrah staying on the vine well into October. Grapes for the "A" Cuvée were harvested on October 21st and 26th.

WINEMAKING

This Syrah was crafted using an adaptation of Australian winemaking techniques focused on extraction early in the fermentation process, minimizing the risk of harsh tannins. The grapes were crushed into tanks and given a four-day cold soak. At the conclusion of fermentation, the lots were pressed immediately and aged separately for 15 months in French oak barrels with 20% new French oak in the mix. The lots were then blended and bottled unfiltered and unfiltered on April 18th, 2024.

TASTING NOTES

The nose is aromatic and captivating, featuring an array of dark fruit aromas including ripe blackberry and plum, black pepper and cured meat. On the palate, this Syrah is full-bodied with a rich and layered flavor profile of blueberry compote and black cherry, accented by savory elements. The tannins are firm yet smooth, contributing to a well-rounded and satisfying finish. A hint of minerality and a touch of fresh acidity provide a refreshing lift, balancing the wine's richness. This Syrah pairs wonderfully with grilled meats, robust stews, and aged cheeses.