



Elizabeth Spencer
BONDED WINERY EST. 1998

2005 ~~E~~~~S~~ Syrah, Block Nine, Sonoma Coast

Appellation: Sonoma Coast
Varietal Blend: 100% Syrah
Production: 6 Barrels
Winemaker: Matthew Rorick

Winemaker's Notes

Rich magenta with carmine edges. Aromas of ripe blueberry and blackberry, cardamom, spruce, lavender, a hint of mocha and fresh cracked peppercorn. Tight and focused on entry, the wine has a bright vibrant acidity with a cascade of red fruit which leads to a rich mid-palate from which blackberry and boysenberry flavors emerge. A stout tannic structure bolsters the long finish, which shows both the juicy richness and tart tang of the first bite of a summer plum.

Vineyards

Our Block Nine Syrah grapes are sourced from a special section of our Sonoma Coast vineyard, located north of San Pablo Bay on Lakeville Highway outside the town of Petaluma in southern Sonoma County. Cooling influences from the nearby San Pablo Bay converge with those from the Pacific Coast to create a particularly cool climate, one which allows for a stellar expression of the variety.

Winemaking

Picked in early October, our 2005 Block Nine Syrah was hand-sorted at the winery and fermented in a small open-top fermenter. In order to increase complexity, add tannin and texture, and increase ageing potential, 50% of the fruit was left whole-cluster. During fermentation, a combination of pumpovers and punch downs were employed depending on day-to-day evaluation of texture and extraction. Following basket pressing, the wine was aged in a combination of French oak and stainless steel barrels; the latter selected to encourage further development of Syrah's particular aromatic profile. The final blend for this vintage, by clone, is 90% Syrah Noir and 10% Syrah 877.

Vintage

The 2005 growing season in northern California was characterized by two distinct features; a spring with more rain than usual and a slightly cooler than normal summer. These two factors combined to cause the vines to develop their fruit gradually with even ripening. By assiduous management of the crop level and vine growth we were able to guide this vintage's Syrah to optimum ripeness, with full tannin maturation as well as complex and forward aromas and flavors. The result is a wine which is a brilliantly true expression of the variety, featuring clean, pure flavors, ample structure and body, and balancing natural acidity