

2021 SYRAH Sta. Rita Hills

Located in the Santa Rita Hills AVA of Santa Barbara County, the stunning hillsides of the Rancho Santa Rosa Vineyard features vines that climb from 500 to 1,000 feet above sea level. The soils are marine-based and the weather is consistently cool thanks to moist ocean breezes that sweep the property daily. The vineyard is farmed with the painstaking care and attention usually associated with much smaller properties. In fact, this vineyard was originally conceived as a series of individual micro-vineyards delineated by soil, exposure, elevation, grade, rootstock and clone.

VINEYARD Located in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA of Santa Barbara County, the grapes for this wine comes from stunning hillside vineyards that climb from 500 to 1,000 feet above sea level. The soils are marine-based and the weather is consistently cool thanks to ocean breezes that sweep the property daily. Originally conceived as a series of individual micro-vineyards delineated by soil, exposure, elevation, grade, rootstock, and clone, these vineyards are farmed with painstaking care and attention to detail.

VINTAGE The 2021 vintage was notably cooler during the growing season with a late start to harvest. Early bud break and mild spring weather continued into a cool summer. The quality of the grapes were good and acid levels remained balanced due to the moderate weather. Tremendous team effort and coordination truly made this season possible. Our first pick was September 8th and harvest was completed on October 23rd.

WINEMAKING We harvest our grapes based on the ripeness of the tannins. The fruit was hand-picked and hand-sorted in the vineyard in the cool morning hours to preserve the aromatics. The clusters were then gently de-stemmed with no crushing. The must was cold-soaked in open-top fermenters for a three-day cold soak prior to inoculation. After roughly two weeks, the wine was pressed and racked to a combination of French and American oak (70% new) and aged for 16 months prior to bottling.

TASTING This wine is deep and dark, with seemingly endless layers of blue and black fruit, smoked meats, anise and espresso. Bold tannins are balanced with delicate barrel spice and vanilla bean details through the extensive finish.

APPELLATION Sta. Rita Hills | VINEYARD Rancho Santa Rosa COMPOSITION 100% Syrah COOPERAGE 16 months in French and American oak, 70% new ALCOHOL 14.1% | TA 5.78 g/L | pH 3.61

