



2015 CUVÉE KICK RANCH VINEYARD – FOUNTAINGROVE DISTRICT

Vintage

The 2015 growing season in Sonoma started out with unseasonably warm temperatures in the late winter and early spring. This resulted in early bud break and bloom. Colder temperatures in May (during the peak of bloom) caused uneven fruit set which ultimately resulted in much smaller crop in 2015, compared to both average yields and the three abundant preceding years. The harvest was one of the earliest on record. While ongoing drought was of great concern, we received 75% of normal rainfall for the water year. The most notable occurrence of 2015 was the devastating Valley Fire that broke out in Lake County to the north in September. Although the fire was tragic for the residents of Lake County, prevailing winds blew the fire's smoke away from Sonoma.

Vineyard

Kick Ranch is a hillside vineyard located in Sonoma County's newest AVA, Fountaingrove District. Its soil is Pleasanton-Haire complex that has been deposited in an alluvial fan surrounding natural runoff from the Mayacama mountains. Fantastic drainage has forced the plants to dig deep roots, naturally balancing the vines with low yields and concentrated fruit. With a straight shot through the Petaluma wind gap, the cool maritime breezes balance the intense afternoon exposure. This results in dark, ripe fruit with good acidity.

Winemaking

The fruit was hand harvested and arrived at the winery at dawn. Once received, the grapes were sprinkled with dry ice to keep cold, and protected from oxidation. The de-stemmed Grenache was fed to a stainless steel open top fermenter. A 10% saignée was taken of the Grenache before de-stemmed Syrah and 20% whole-cluster Syrah was crushed over the top. Gentle pump-overs and pneumatic punch downs extracted the silky tannins. The wine was aged for 18 months (17% new French oak barrels and a neutral French oak puncheon). This was the smallest production of Kick Ranch since 2009.

Tasting Notes

Dark violet color. The concentration this year is over-the-top. The crop was so light, that we achieved serious ripeness reflected in the aromas and mouthfeel. Intense smooth, cocoa tannins linger in the finish with tanned leather and tobacco leaf. Interestingly, the highest percentage Grenache blend is our darkest effort to date - should age well for 15-25 years.

Analysis

Harvested: September 22, 2015
Composition: 55% Syrah, 45% Grenache
Alcohol: 15.4%
Bottling Date: February 2017
Release Date: December 2020
Production: 85 cases

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