



2014 HOME RUN CUVÉE KICK RANCH VINEYARD – FOUNTAINGROVE DISTRICT

Vintage

The 2014 vintage is the third in a string of exceptional years for Kale Wines. The growing season began with a dry winter with unseasonably warm temperatures. This led to an early bud break that set the stage for one of the earliest harvests on record. Warm spring weather during flowering allowed for even fruit set. The dry conditions led to low vigor vines and small, abundant berries. This created intensity, richness and concentration of smooth, silky tannins. The logistics of the season allowed all winemaking decisions to be made with optimal timing.

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. De-stemmed Grenache was gravity fed to a stainless steel open top fermenter. A 10% saignée was taken of the Grenache before de-stemmed Syrah and Viognier and 10% whole-cluster Syrah were crushed over the top. Gentle pump-overs and pneumatic punch downs extracted the silky tannins. The wine was aged for 20 months with a single racking to blend (25% new French oak barrels and neutral French oak puncheons).

Tasting Notes

Deep violet in color beside aromas of elderberry and black fig. Smooth and supple mouthfeel accompanied by a floral nuance of Bing cherry and tobacco leaf. Well integrated tannins extend through the finish with hints of Darjeeling tea, leather and orange rind.

Analysis

Harvested: September 24th, 2014
Composition: 71% Syrah, 25% Grenache, 4% Viognier
Alcohol: 14.5%
Bottling Date: May 2016
Release Date: May 2018
Production: 293 cases