



THE FACTS

Varietal Composition:
100% Syrah

Appellation: Monterey

Vineyard: Rio Chicho

Finished Alcohol: 14.8%

Residual Sugar(G/F): 0.005 g/100ml

Total Acid: .66 g/100ml

pH: 3.70

Bottling Date: May 25, 2016

Release Date: August 1, 2017

Total Production: 200 Cases

THE VINTAGE

This small production of cool climate Syrah is our first 100% Syrah since 2012. The fruit was sourced from a tiny Monterey county vineyard in Indian Valley which runs perpendicular to the Salinas River. In fact, the south end of the vineyard is actually grown in the river! The climate is cool and temperate and produces wines with elegant fruity taste, round tannins, and rich structure. The vine rows run east to west giving each side of the canopy adequate light. The vines are trained on a trellis, with tall vertical shoots, pinned up on both sides of the canopy and only irrigated in the summer. The soil is a mix of loam and sand with good drainage. This vineyard sees extensive wind, giving it natural defenses against pest and disease. The fruit was picked September 3rd and taken to Sculpterra for immediate processing.

THE WINEMAKING

Syrah is a delicate grape and therefore we did not crush the berries but only removed them from the stem, using our destemming machine. We used small $\frac{3}{4}$ ton macro bins for fermentation and did all punchdowns by hand each morning and night. Syrah yeast was chosen to ferment half the bins while yeast ICV-D254 was used for the other half. Syrah yeast is great in capturing color, stabilizing tannins and helping the overall mouthfeel of the wine. Yeast ICV-D254 is known for its ability to draw out fruity tastes of plum, cherry, and pomegranate. The wine was aged in all neutral 300L barrels, adding subtle notes of wood and toast but letting the fruit shine as the main component in this wine. I bottled this wine after 7 months of barrel aging because I felt that its true nature is best expressed at a young age. I'm very pleased with the fresh fruity aromas and balanced aging bouquets.

THE TASTE

Truly a delightful wine, this Syrah will be loved by all for its fruit-forward nature and great drinkability at such a young age. Reminiscent of a high quality Rose, it is a glorious wine with a graceful mouth feel and a dazzling display of fruity goodness. The fruitiness is balanced nicely by hints of spice, with garden-fresh cracked black pepper, and a sprinkle of freshly grated cinnamon and nutmeg. This small production of only 200 cases will be an instant winner with the Sculpterra wine club, so come in and get it while supplies last.

-Paul Frankel, Winemaker