



### THE VINTAGE

This 2017 Syrah is dynamite! It's full of the ripest fruit conceivable yet steady with coupling acid and firm tannins on the finish. It combines two unique vineyards; Gene Alonso on Penman Springs Road, and a Monterrey AVA vineyard entitled, "Rio Chicho." Both vineyards offer dramatically different climates. Gene's vineyard is a scorching hot vineyard creating fruit with high sugar and elevated dark fruit flavors. Rio Chicho is a cool climate location and lends itself to berries with high levels of acid and tart-berry taste. 2017 was an ideal growing season with summer heat showing up at just the right time. Also, 2017 saw the most rainfall in 10 years, making for a very bountiful harvest with balanced yields and uniform ripening.

### THE WINEMAKING

We hand picked the fruit and delivered the grapes to Sculpterra Winery for early morning destemming. The juice fermented over a ten-day period, followed by pressing and barrel aging. We aged the wine in 100% new 500L oak barrels. The two harvest lots could not be more different. The Syrah from Rio Chicho has brilliant red brick color combined with cranberry and raspberry fruit. Gene's Syrah has a wonderful dark purple color with accentuated flavors of raisin and chocolate. The final blend is a combination of both vineyard lots. 63% Syrah Gene's Vineyard and 37% Syrah from Rio Chicho.

### THE FACTS

**Varietal Composition:**  
100% Syrah

**Appellation:** Central Coast  
**Vineyard:** 63% Gene's Village  
& 37% Rio Chicho

**Finished Alcohol:** 15.0%  
**Residual Sugar(G/F):** 0.15 g/100ml  
**Total Acid:** .74 g/100ml  
**pH:** 3.78

**Bottling Date:** May 23, 2018  
**Release Date:** February 1, 2019  
**Total Production:** 355 Cases

### THE TASTE

Strawberries, blackberries and black pepper balance marvelously in this full-bodied, firm-textured and quite intense wine. The spiciness of pepper and dried herbs is fun to taste and merges well with the vivid bright fruit flavors. It's almost over-the-top with dangerous ripe flavors yet perfumed with floral elements of violets and rose. The palate is thick yet nuanced, energetic with rich black cherry and plum accented by pepper, earth, smoke and a hint of bacon. It drinks gorgeously already but should improve through 2025 and even further.

-Paul Frankel, Winemaker