



SARACINA SYRAH 2005

Vintage and Release Information

Mendocino County 2005
Release Date September 1, 2008
Production of 223 cases

Technical Data

15.3 % alcohol by volume
0.57 titratable acidity
pH 4.07
Bottled May 18, 2007

Varietal Composition

100% Syrah

Vineyards and Harvest

The fruit was sourced from two unique Mendocino County vineyards: Eaglepoint Ranch and Potato Patch. Eaglepoint Ranch, one of the most coveted and distinctive vineyards in the county, combines high elevation (1800 feet), "mountain loam" soil, and meticulous, low-yield farming. Potato Patch vineyard lies at an elevation of 2200 feet, just 10 miles from the Pacific Ocean, in the Mendocino Ridge Appellation. The soil is a layer of ancient whitethorn thicket humus on crushed sandstone. Yields in Potato Patch are lower than three tons per acre. Both vineyards are cool climate and very late ripening.

Winemaking and Cooperage

The grapes were hand-picked at full maturity. Nearly 40% of the fruit was put into open tops as whole clusters and treading by foot. The remainder was gently crushed on top. The must soaked at a cool temperature for eight days, at which point native yeast fermentation began. During fermentation we used gentle aerative pumpovers to keep the skins in contact with the juice. Post-fermentation maceration with heat followed for approximately one week. The wine was aged in Burgundian (Francois Freres) oak (50% new) for 18 months, which included six months of native malolactic fermentation. The wine was assembled and bottled without filtration.

Winemaker Alex MacGregor
Consulting Winemaker David Ramey

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The saturated purple/black color of our 2005 Syrah immediately communicates that this is serious wine. The nose shows intense blue and black fruits with smoke, bacon and dried herbal notes. On the palate the wine shows impressive richness and depth, the oak is well integrated, and tannins are supple. The wine is a superb expression of the minerality and delineation that high elevation vineyards can achieve with careful and thoughtful winemaking.