

TOLOSA

SOLAR | SUSTAINABLE | ESTATE

VINEYARD & VINTAGE NOTES

Two widely separated portions of the estate produce first rate Syrah. The western side of the Salaal blocks is the more reliable, but the steep calcareous slopes of the Oceanside Syrah blocks can also be excellent when they ripen properly. In 2012 roughly half the wine came from Oceanside, and about a third from Salaal. In our cold fog swept valley Syrah is always late. We picked this wine on the last day of October. Syrah is mostly grown in warm to hot climates. It takes a great deal of attention and hand working to coax these vines to maturity in our cool climate conditions. When they succeed we feel more than compensated for the effort.

WINEMAKING NOTES

It is a deeply held belief here that the vineyard and vintage play the lead roles in the quality of our red wines. We feel the winemaking is best in a supporting not starring role. We practice night harvest by hand. The fermentations have a high degree of whole berries. Open top fermenters are combined with punch down to give effective and gentle extraction. We co-ferment small amounts of Viognier with the Syrah to give it aromatic lift. Only free run wine is used. New French oak is kept to less than 20% with this wine. More would interfere.

WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES

This wine has a beautiful dark ruby red color. The aromas are complex and compelling with ripe plum, orange peel, coriander and sandalwood evident. There is a meaty smoky character as well. The palate, like the other '12 red wines is very open and soft for its age. There is fruit richness at the opening that is followed by velvety tannins. The acid tension is perfect, and gives just the right grip to the tannins. There is an extraordinary level of depth and nuance to this wine. It should age gracefully as well.

Estate Wines

2012 SYRAH

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Varietal | 85% Syrah, 12% Petite Sirah, 3% Viognier |
| Appellation | Tolosa Estate, Edna Valley AVA |
| Brix at Harvest | 24.0° |
| T.A. | 6.1 g/L |
| pH | 3.57 |
| Alcohol | 13.8% |
| Barrel Aging | 21 mos. |
| Bottling Date | 8/28/2014 |
| Production | 1,370 cases |
| Suggested Retail | \$32 |

