

DRAGONETTE CELLARS



DRAGONETTE CELLARS 2007 SYRAH, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

VINEYARD SOURCES:

WATCH HILL VINEYARD, LOS ALAMOS, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

CLONE: 7

AVERAGE YIELD: 1.47 TPA

DEMETRIA VINEYARD (BIODYNAMIC), FOXEN CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY FORMERLY KNOWN AS ANDREW MURRAY VINEYARD (PLANTED IN 1990)

CLONES: 383, ESTRELLA, AND DURRELL

AVERAGE YIELD: 1.22 TPA

SHADOW CANYON VINEYARD, YORK MOUNTAIN, PASO ROBLES

CLONES: 470 AND ESTRELLA

AVERAGE YIELD: 1.1 TPA

VINEYARD AND WINEMAKING NOTES:

OUR 2007 SYRAH REPRESENTS A BLEND OF CLONES FROM SEVERAL WELL-KNOWN VINEYARDS INCLUDING WATCH HILL, DEMETRIA (FORMERLY KNOWN AS ANDREW MURRAY VINEYARD), AND SHADOW CANYON (IN THE YORK MOUNTAIN AVA AT THE FAR WESTERN CORNER OF PASO ROBLES). THE 2007 SYRAH WAS HAND HARVESTED, FIELD SORTED BY THE PROPRIETORS THEMSELVES AND THEN RUSHED TO THE WINERY FOR CAREFUL SORTING—BOTH CLUSTER AND BERRY.

THE FRUIT WAS 100% DESTEMMED AND FERMENTED IN INDIVIDUAL LOTS. WE COLD SOAKED THE GRAPES FOR 5-10 DAYS, THEN FERMENTED THE GRAPES, LARGELY WITH NATIVE YEASTS, FOR APPROXIMATELY 14 DAYS, UTILIZING A COMBINATION OF PUMPOVERS AND HAND PUNCHDOWNS TO EXTRACT MAXIMUM FLAVOR, COMPLEXITY AND BALANCING STRUCTURE. AFTER FERMENTATION WAS COMPLETE, THE WINES WERE BASKET PRESSED AND TRANSFERRED TO BARREL BY GRAVITY. WE AGED THE WINE ON ITS LEES IN CAREFULLY SELECTED FRENCH OAK BARRELS FROM SEVERAL COOPERS (35% NEW) FOR 18 MONTHS BEFORE BOTTLING THE WINE UNFINED AND UNFILTERED. BOTTLED UNFINED AND UNFILTERED IN APRIL 2009

ALCOHOL: 14.6% CASES PRODUCED: 400 SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$33.00

REVIEWS

92 POINTS WINE ENTHUSIAST

HERE'S A RICH, SAVORY SYRAH, MADE NORTHERN RHÔNE-STYLE. DENSE AND FULL-BODIED, IT DISPLAYS COMPLEX FLAVORS OF BLACKBERRIES, DARK UNSWEETENED CHOCOLATE, PLUMS, TOBACCO, LEATHER AND BLACK PEPPER. THE TANNINS ARE ROBUST, BUT VERY FINELY GROUND. - S.H. (12/14/2009)

91 POINTS WINE AND SPIRITS

A BRIGHT CORE OF FRUIT AND FRESH SCENTS OF LAVENDER KEEP THE FLAVORS BRISK IN THIS MEATY RED. IT GAINS DEPTH AND COMPLEXITY WITH AIR, BALANCING BLUEBERRY AND RASPBERRY FLAVORS WITH NOTES OF SAGE AND VIOLET. DECANT IT FOR VENISON SAUSAGE.

90 POINTS THE RHONE REPORT

COMING FROM THREE DIFFERENT VINEYARDS (WATCH HILL, DEMETRIA, AND SHADOW CANYON) WITH 17 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK, THE 2007 DRAGONETTE CELLARS SYRAH IS A REAL BEAUTY THAT OFFERS UP CLEAN, PURE AROMAS OF CASSIS AND BLACKBERRY FRUIT MIXED WITH VANILLA, BAKING SPICE, ROASTED MEAT AND EARTH NOTES. IT'S RIPE AND RICH BUT AT THE SAME TIME, MANAGES TO MAINTAIN A SENSE OF BALANCE AND RESTRAINT. MEDIUM TO FULL BODIED ON THE PALATE, THERE'S FRESH ACIDITY, SWEET, FRUIT, A RICH TEXTURE AND A CLEAN, LONG FINISH. ALL IN ALL, AN OUTSTANDING SYRAH AND GIVEN THE BALANCE AND OVERALL HARMONY, SHOULD DRINK WELL OVER THE NEXT 10 TO 12 YEARS. (90 PTS.)

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