



2001 SYRAH “ALISOS VINEYARD”

Alisos Vineyard is in the heart of the Santa Barbara County wine region, about 5 miles east of the town of Los Alamos. It was planted in 1991 by Tony Austin (original winemaker at Firestone and founder of Austin Cellars), and, we believe, is the last vineyard planted in Santa Barbara County on its own natural roots. It is an outstanding vineyard with perfect southwest exposure and rocky, clay-loam soil. It is cooler than Los Olivos but warmer than Bien Nacido.

Traditional fermentation is in small open-top fermentors, and is punched down manually twice a day. It is aged in French oak barrels, 25% new Francois Frères, for 15 months, and bottled without fining or filtration. 210 cases were produced.

This is an exceptional Syrah from an exceptional vintage. The aromas, flavor, and structure remind me both of Côte Rôtie and Saint Joseph. Wild, racy fruit combines with white pepper and spice. With deep color and rich flavor, this wine should cellar beautifully for at least 10-15 years.