



## **2001 SYRAH “RANCHO ARROYO GRANDE”**

This wine is 80% Syrah and 20% Mourvèdre from the Rancho Arroyo Grande Vineyard in the Arroyo Grande Valley. This vineyard is in the eastern, warmer end of the Arroyo Grande Valley about 5 miles east of Talley Vineyards. This is a young vineyard (planted in 1999), owned by Gary and Thereza Verboon and farmed by Jeff Frey (our good friend who for years managed Bien Nacido). This is a new area for Syrah with unique soil and a microclimate similar to Los Olivos in the Santa Ynez Valley.

The syrah came in first and was destemmed into a small open-top fermentor and punched down manually twice a day. After about 10 days the fermentation started to slow down, so we added some actively fermenting Mourvèdre juice that reinvigorated the fermentation. This extended fermentation and co-fermentation of Mourvèdre gives the wine a unique, earthy, gamy character along with classic syrah berry and spice. It was aged 15 months in François Frères French oak barrels (1/3 new oak). Six barrels were bottled, about 140 cases, in February 2003, with no fining or filtration.