



## **2001 SYRAH “STOLPMAN VINEYARD”**

This wine is 100% Syrah from the Stolpman Vineyard in the hills just west of Los Olivos, in the Santa Ynez Valley. Stolpman was planted in 1994 and we have been buying syrah from them since 1996. This vineyard was first put on the map by outstanding wines made by Ojai Vineyards and Jaffurs Wines, and now by wines bottled under Stolpman’s own label.

The grapes were de-stemmed and then fermented in small open-top fermentors and punched down manually twice a day. It was aged 15 months in French oak barrels, of which 20% was new Francois Frères. We bottled 10 barrels (about 240 cases) with no fining or filtration in February 2003.

This is a classic Santa Ynez Valley Syrah - earth and spice, with a rich plummy middle. It’s a big wine but not over the top. Great balance should allow this wine to age for many years.