



2002 SYRAH “CENTRAL COAST”

This wine is 86% Syrah, 6% Grenache, 4% Counoise, 3% Mourvèdre and 1% Cinsault. The grapes come from eleven different vineyards in both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties with 49% from Santa Barbara County, 31% from Paso Robles and 20% from Arroyo Grande Valley. The largest vineyard sources are: Bien Nacido (Santa Barbara) 21%, Rancho Arroyo Grande (Arroyo Grande) 20%, French Camp (Paso Robles) 18%, Reid (Paso Robles) 13%, and Stolpman (Santa Barbara) 6% followed by smaller percentages from Premier Coastal, Colson Canyon, Ibarra-Young, Purisima Mountain, Whitehawk, and Alisos Vineyards all in Santa Barbara County.

All of the lots were fermented and aged separately, and then blended in three different stages as my single vineyard selections were made. The wine was aged for eleven months in mostly neutral French oak barrels— some new barrels do make it into the final blend, in this wine about 5%.

This is truly one of the best Central Coast Syrah's yet. The high percentage of cool climate fruit from Bien Nacido, Arroyo Grande and other Santa Barbara vineyards seems to make this wine better each year. The aroma has the typical spice and raspberry scents with licorice, thyme and cardamom notes. It's a big, juicy wine in the mouth with gobs of fruit and a bit more tannic structure than previous bottlings. Believe it or not, we bottled 14,570 cases in August and November 2003.