



2002 SYRAH “PURISIMA MOUNTAIN VINEYARD”

This wine is 100% Syrah from the Purisima Mountain Vineyard in the Santa Ynez Valley AVA just west of Los Olivos. The vineyard is owned by the Beckmen family and in just a few years has rightly earned a reputation as one of the top vineyards of Santa Barbara County. Along with the Bien Nacido Vineyard, this is my personal favorite of the 2002 Syrah.

The grapes were harvested in perfect condition on September 24 at 25 degrees brix, 3.42pH and 7.2 total acidity. We used our traditional fermentation techniques and de-stemmed the grapes, fermented in small open topped fermenters and punched down manually twice a day. The wine was aged 16 months in barrels, 25% of which were new François Frères.

This is classic Santa Ynez Valley Syrah. Aromas are of plums, raspberry and lavender with hints of pepper and spice. It is full bodied but has an elegant mouth-feel, with balanced acidity and well-rounded tannins. This wine is a keeper, and should age nicely for 7-10 years. Four barrels (96 cases) were bottled without fining or filtration of 2004.