



## **2002 SYRAH “RANCHO ARROYO GRANDE”**

This wine is 90% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre from grapes grown in the Rancho Arroyo Grande Vineyard, in the eastern hills of the Arroyo Grande Valley. I can't quite figure this vineyard out – it's totally different than any other vineyard we work with. It's warmer than the Santa Maria Valley but with colder night temperatures. It's only about 20 miles from Bien Nacido as the crow flies, but it seems a world away. Colder spring and fall temperatures, warmer days in the middle of summer and very little fog or marine layer. The soil is different too, this deep gray volcanic sand. I think it has potential to be a great vineyard, time will tell.

The Syrah was harvested on October 10, the Mourvèdre on November 1<sup>st</sup>. They were fermented and aged separately before blending in June of 2003. Aging was 16 months in French oak barrels (25% new François Frères). Bottled without fining or filtration. 5 barrels (120 cases) were selected for this bottling.

This is the most forward and approachable of my 2002 Single Vineyard Syrahs. It has a fruity, chocolaty aroma, with hints of the gamey Mourvèdre. It is succulent with sweet fruit in the mouth. I think this should be drunk over the next 3-5 years.