



## **2005 GRENACHE “PURISIMA MOUNTAIN VINEYARD”**

This wine is 90% Grenache and 10% Syrah from the Purisima Mountain Vineyard just west of Los Olivos in the Santa Ynez Valley. Purisima Mountain is owned by the Beckmen family that owns Beckmen Winery, and in its short history has risen to the top of the quality ladder in the Central Coast.

2005 was a great vintage on the Central Coast, with some of the best Grenache and Syrah that I've seen from Purisima Mountain. The Grenache (Tablas Creek clone) was harvested on October 21<sup>st</sup> with great flavor and balance. Grenache needs to get a little riper than Syrah to come into balance and this was harvested at a perfect 25.0 brix.

The grapes were destemmed then cold soaked for a couple days. Fermentation was done in small fermenters and punched down manually twice a day. After fermentation the wine was kept in a fairly reduced state and aged in neutral barrel for 10 months. The Syrah was blended in shortly before bottling in August 2006. 131 cases were produced.

I'm a big Grenache fan, and we've planted six acres of it in the Edna Valley so we can make more in the future. It's kind of the Rhone producer's answer to pinot noir – silky, seductive, somewhat elusive. Difficult to grow and difficult to coax a lot of color out of it. This one has a beautiful ruby red color with sweet fruit and perfumed aromas. The flavors go deep with cherries and hard spices and hints of herb. I'm sure this wine will age nicely, it certainly has the balance and stuffing for the cellar, but I think it's pretty nice to drink it in its youthful, exuberant state!