

Proprietor Selected  
SPECIAL CUVÉE

*Elizabeth Spencer*

SYRAH  
SONOMA COAST

Vintage 2006

30 Barrels

Produced & Bottled by Elizabeth Spencer Wines

APPELLATION: SONOMA COAST  
VARIETAL BLEND: 100% SYRAH  
WINEMAKERS: MATTHEW RORICK & SPENCER GRAHAM  
RELEASE DATE: EARLY SPRING 2008

#### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Deep purple in color, with edges of maroon. Aromas of blackberry compote, white pepper, plum, matchstick and a hint of iodine. On the palate, generous, forward fruit harmonizes with lively acidity; mid palate brings touches of toast and vanilla beneath black cherry and cranberry. Finishes clean, with good flavor persistence and characteristic tannins.

#### WINEMAKING

Picked in the early morning fog on the 12th of September and the 1st of October, our 2006 Sonoma Coast Syrah was hand-sorted at the winery and fermented in small open-top fermentors. Each tank included 20% whole cluster fruit for added structure and palate complexity. During fermentation, a combination of pumpovers and punchdowns were employed depending on day-to-day evaluation of texture and extraction. Following basket pressing, the wine was aged in a combination of French oak and stainless steel barrels; the latter selected to encourage further development of Syrah's particular aromatic profile. The final blend for this vintage, by clone, is 70% Syrah 877 and 30% Syrah noir.

#### VINEYARDS

Our Syrah grapes are sourced from Gary Hendricks' vineyard, north of San Pablo Bay on Lakeville Highway outside the town of Petaluma in southern Sonoma County. Cooling influences from the nearby bay converge with those from the Pacific coast to create a particularly cool mesoclimate, one which allows for a stellar expression of the variety.

#### VINTAGE

The 2006 growing season in northern California appeared to be trending toward a warm one, until the dog days of August mellowed into a mild, dry fall. This sedate ripening climate allowed our grapevines to develop their fruit gradually and ripen it evenly. By assiduous management of the crop level and vine growth we were able to guide this vintage's Syrah to optimum ripeness, with full tannin maturation as well as complex and forward aromas and flavors. The result is a wine which is a brilliantly true expression of the variety, featuring clean, pure flavors, ample structure and body, and balancing natural acidity.

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