

Proprietor Selected
SPECIAL CUVÉE

Elizabeth Spencer

GRENACHE
MENDOCINO

Vintage 2007

20 Barrels

Produced & Bottled by Elizabeth Spencer Wines

APPELLATION: MENDOCINO
VARIETAL BLEND: 100% GRENACHE
PRODUCTION: 20 BARRELS
WINEMAKERS: MATTHEW RORICK

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Deep garnet color in the glass. On the nose there are fresh, intense aromas of rose petal, bergamot, black cherry, lilac, and peppercorn. Supple and round on the entry, smooth mature tannins build beneath layers of ripe plum, kirsch and a hint of mint. Lively red fruit flavors shines through to a clean and persistent finish.

WINEMAKING

Upon arrival at the winery, our Grenache grapes were destemmed and placed in a small open-top fermentation tank. It then underwent a six day cold soak in order to extract as much of the bright fruit flavors from the skins and pulp before fermentation. Allowed to ferment with its native yeast, this wine was punched down by hand, pressed just before dryness, and allowed to complete fermentation in barrel. With eight months in neutral French oak barrels, the tannins have integrated seamlessly into the body of the wine, providing the finishing touch to its wonderful balance.

VINEYARDS

Our Grenache comes from a south-western facing slope in Mendocino, just east of Ukiah. Rough, stony soils force these vines to struggle through the growing season, and the resultant tiny berries yield a bounty of concentrated aromatics and exuberant flavors. Grenache vines can produce enormous amounts of fruit, even on rugged sites such as this. We work closely with the grower to regulate crop size to ensure that each plant carries only as many clusters as can perfectly ripen.

VINTAGE

The 2007 growing season afforded our Mendocino Grenache the opportunity to develop its characteristic aromas and flavors at a slow, even pace. The growing season provided moderate temperatures throughout the course of a long, mild summer. As a result, the grapes retained all of the exotic and alluring aromatics that are characteristic of Grenache. During the second week of September, we harvested at the perfect balance of ripeness and structure.

Elizabeth Spencer

POST OFFICE BOX 608
RUTHERFORD, CALIFORNIA 94573
TEL: 707-963-4762 | FAX: 707-963-1822
WWW.ELIZABETHSPENCERWINES.COM