

Proprietor Selected  
SPECIAL CUVÉE

*Elizabeth Spencer*

SYRAH  
SONOMA COAST

Vintage 2005

20 Barrels

Produced & Bottled by Elizabeth Spencer Wines

APPELLATION: SONOMA COAST  
VARIETAL BLEND: 90% SYRAH NOIR AND 10% SYRAH  
WINEMAKER: SPENCER GRAHAM  
RELEASE DATE: EARLY SPRING 2007

#### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Opaque, dark purple in color. Aromas of blackberry, white pepper and plum. On the palate, the multi-layered fruit impression opens up to a mid-palate with hints of toast and vanilla beneath bright cherry and cranberry. The wine has great balance and an excellent structure that will make it age well. Finishes clean, with good, long flavor persistence.

#### WINEMAKING

Picked in the early morning fog on the 8th and the 19th of October, our 2005 Sonoma Coast Syrah was hand-sorted at the winery and fermented in small open-top tanks. We kept about 20% of the fruit in whole clusters for added structure and complexity. During fermentation, a combination of pumpovers and punch-downs were employed based on a day-to-day evaluation of the 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 wine by clone is 90% Syrah Noir and 10% Syrah.

#### VINEYARDS

Our Syrah grapes are sourced from a vineyard located 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 microclimate, one which allows for a stellar expression of the variety.

#### VINTAGE

The 2005 growing season in northern California was characterized by two distinct features - a spring with more rain than usual and a slightly cooler than normal summer. These two factors combined for a gradual development of fruit with even ripening. By assiduous management of the crop levels 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 brilliant true expression of the variety, featuring clean, pure flavors, ample structure and body, and balancing natural acidity.

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POST OFFICE BOX 608  
RUTHERFORD, CALIFORNIA 94573  
TEL: 707-963-1847 | FAX: 707-963-1822  
WWW.ELIZABETHSPENCERWINES.COM