

Proprietor Selected
SPECIAL CUVÉE

Elizabeth Spencer

ROUSSANNE
SANTA YNEZ

Vintage 2009

4 Barrels

Produced & Bottled by Elizabeth Spencer Wines

APPELLATION: SANTA YNEZ
VARIETAL BLEND: 100% ROUSSANNE
WINEMAKER: SPENCER GRAHAM
RELEASE DATE: FALL 2010

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Brilliant golden in hue. Our Roussanne has fresh, fruity aromas of ripe nectarine and pear with attractive floral notes of lavender, herbal tea and a hint of white pepper. On the palate, the wine is rich and viscous and beautifully textured with flavors of stone fruits, melon, pear, honey and nut with a backbone of bright acidity that perfectly balances the round, rich nature of the variety. This wine also has a steely, wet slate minerality, which is characteristic of the varietal, with a citrus backdrop and hints of savory herbs. The long delicious finish is broad and rich, but held at attention by the bright natural acidity.

WINEMAKING

Our Elizabeth Spencer 2009 Roussanne was hand-picked in late October and then whole cluster pressed and cold-fermented in stainless steel in order to allow the delightful aromas and flavors of this complex variety be expressed without interference by oak. Following fermentation, the lees were gently stirred in order to impart body and flavor in the wine.

VINEYARDS

Our Roussanne is sourced from a meticulously farmed vineyard in the Central Coast appellation of Santa Ynez. Transverse mountain ranges just north of Santa Barbara create a unique micro-climate for grapevine cultivation; marine fog is funneled through the region providing ideal cooling temperatures throughout the growing season.

VINTAGE

A hallmark of the 2009 growing season were the generally cooler conditions followed by late-season rains just prior to harvest which kept us on our toes in the vineyard. Moderate temperatures through the growing season allowed for excellent ripening conditions, with no exceedingly hot spells to rob our fruit of its acidity and aromas. Fortunately, our Roussanne was spared the deluge of rain that arrived in October and the vines benefited from a season of mild temperatures allowing us to produce a well-textured, beautifully nuanced wine.

HISTORY OF VARIETY

Roussanne is a richly complex grape variety that is indigenous to the Rhone Valley of France where it is grown in such well-know appellations as Crozes-Hermitage in the North and Chateauneuf du Pape and Cotes Du Rhone appellations in the South. The varietal is successfully grown throughout California and in parts of Washington State, Australia and Italy.

CELLARING RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2009 Elizabeth Spencer Roussanne, Santa Ynez is drinking wonderfully right now, but has the acidity and depth to reward as much as another five to ten years of cellaring. Typically Roussanne wines hold up well with cellaring and may be enjoyable a decade or more beyond the vintage.

Elizabeth Spencer.

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