

2015 ELIZABETH SPENCER ROSÉ OF GRENACHE, MENDOCINO



APPELLATION: MENDOCINO
VARIETAL BLEND: GRENACHE
PRODUCTION: TWENTY BARRELS

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Clear, bright apricot pink in color. The seductive nose has hints of guava, apricot and just-picked, summer strawberries. The wine gives a rich, ripe and intense impression in the mouth with flavors reminiscent of strawberry marmalade, tangerine and a touch of perfectly ripe, white peach. The wine is dry and zesty, balanced with a full, lush palate of ripened fruit flavors and textures, finishing with a bracing acidity and minerality. It pairs beautifully with a broad array of foods from prosciutto and cheeses to green curry or shrimp pad thai. It is also rich enough to be paired with a quiche with gruyere and bacon or pork tenderloin. We also enjoy it as an aperitif. This is a serious, delicious wine. It will cool your summer afternoons or complement your dinner table.

WINEMAKING

Whole clusters of fruit macerated on their skins for one day extracting pigments and flavor. We drained the light magenta juice to a stainless tank for a full, cold fermentation. A portion of the finished wine was aged for five months neutral oak and the balance in stainless steel.

VINEYARDS

The Grenache for our Rosé is grown in rocky soils on a southwestern facing slope along the Talmage Bench east of Ukiah in Mendocino County. The Russian River flows the length of the Ukiah Valley and has been its defining landmark for eons. The fertile flood plain of this storied waterway is flanked by miles of benchland. The rough, stony, well-drained soils here force the vines to struggle throughout the growing season and as a result, the small berries develop concentrated aromatics and exuberant flavors. We designated a specific section of this vineyard for a whole cluster press Rosé program. Aggressive thinning of the grapes early in the season still left lots of fruit in the vineyard, so a final thinning pass was needed. By reducing the crop, the grapes ripened earlier and we were able to harvest much sooner than we usually do in this vineyard.

FUN FACTS

The vineyard where this Grenache is grown has been owned by the same family since 1918. Grenache is one of the most widely planted red wine grape varieties in the world. It is the dominant variety in most Southern Rhône wines, especially in Chateauneuf-du-Pape where it is typically over 80% of the blend.

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