



2005 Estate Syrah – Donna's
Small Lot Collection

598 cases produced, \$36/bottle

Release Date 10.13.07

production

Also from one of our small lot collection of wines, and named for Ron Melville's wife, Donna, this is 100% Sta. Rita Hills estate fruit from a 3.6 acre section planted to two clones, Estrella and Clone 1 Shiraz, on three different low-vigor rootstocks. Yields were 3.7 lbs/plant (3.4 tons/acre) and were harvested over a fourteen day period. 85% of the fruit was gently de-stemmed, with 15% remaining as whole-clusters. Total skin and stem contact averaged 30 days (a 7 day cold soak, 2+ weeks fermentation and 1+ week extended maceration). From the press, the wine was transferred directly into 33% new French oak (Dargaud et Jaegle), where it remained sur lie with no SO2 until May when it was gently pressure-racked for the first time and prepared for bottling in August. 15.9% alcohol.

tasting notes

More robust and complex than the High Density, this year's Donna's has effusive aromatics of black cherry, dark plum, black pepper, black licorice, tobacco leaf and Moroccan spice. There are other subtle hints of boysenberry kirsch, purple flowers, dried sage, charcoaled meats, asphalt and wet leather. The wine's mouthfeel matches up to this intensity of flavor adding breadth and complexity. The wine finishes slightly youthful at this stage but certainly offers a bright future as it continues to harmonize.