



2011 Estate Syrah - *Donna's*
Estate Small Lot Collection - Sta. Rita Hills

Named for Ron Melville's wife, Donna's block is planted atop twenty feet of sand in the northeast section of our vineyard and is composed of two-thirds clone 1 and one-third Estrella clone. Fermented as 60% whole clusters and aged in neutral barrel, this wine provides vividly enhanced aromatics and structure making it demonstrative of the extremely cool climate of the site on which it is grown. Fruit was fermented in small 1.5 ton open-top fermenters with total skin and stem contact averaging 30 days (a 7 day cold soak, 2+ weeks fermentation and 1+ week extended maceration). From the press, the wine was transferred directly into neutral French oak barrels where it remained sur lie with no sulfur until May and was then prepared for bottling in December. Yields were 2.6 lbs/vine (2.2 tons per acre).

Robert Parker: 94 Points

Josh Raynolds IWC: 93 Points

Tasting notes: Hypnotic and complex aromatics of dried tobacco leaf, chili powder, black olives and mustard seed spring forward. In the background, more tender elements of marshmallow cream, spun honey, kirsch liqueur and fresh mint linger. Possessing an explosive presence in the mouth, the firm, refined tannins frame a vibrant mid-palate, finishing with significant weight and structure.

AVA: Sta. Rita Hills

100% Syrah

Cases Produced: 205

Clones: Estrella, Clone 1

Elevage: Aged in neutral barrel (10-20 year old French oak)

Fermentation: 60% whole cluster

Alcohol: 13.5%

Release Date: 11.19.13