



2012 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 with 100% 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 3.2 lbs/vine (2.8 tons per acre).

Robert Parker: 99 Points

Antonio Galloni: 93 Points

***Tasting Notes:** Inky eggplant colored, voluptuous aromatics of cocoa powder, beef bouillon and blackberry jam are immediately noticeable while secondary components of bay leaf, peppered jerky and fresh tobacco leaf also develop. In the mouth, taut impressions of soy, dried nori black olive and iodine dominate, while plush, pillowy tannins frame a chiseled and elongated finish.*

AVA: Sta. Rita Hills

100% Syrah

Cases Produced: 270

Clones: Estrella, Clone 1

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

Fermentation: 100% whole cluster

Alcohol: 15.0%