

melville

2021 Estate Syrah - Sta. Rita Hills

Description

The fruit for this wine comes exclusively from our Sta. Rita Hills estate and is a combination of five different Syrah clones (Estrella, Beaucastel 99, 1, 383, 470). The Estrella, 383 and 470 are planted on nutrient deficient, well-drained sand, which always lends an intoxicating and high-toned bouquet of white pepper flowers and spice, while the Clone 99 from Block I is planted on denser sandy loam soil, bringing depth and richness to the table. Harvested mid to late November, 60% of the fruit was gently de-stemmed with 40% remaining as whole clusters and was fermented in small 1.5 ton open top fermenters. Total skin and stem contact averaged 35 days (7-day cold soak, 2+ weeks fermentation, and 2+ week extended maceration). From the press, the wine was transferred directly to neutral barrels (15+ year-old French oak) where it remained sur lie with no sulfur until June when it was gently pressure raked for the first time and prepared for bottling in July. Yields were 2.75 lbs/vine (2.5 tons per acre).

Highlights

Varietal: 100% Syrah
Cases Produced: 1,023
Soil Type: Sandy loam
Vine age: 25 years old
Clones: Estrella, Beaucastel 99, 1, 383, 470
Fermentation: 40% whole-cluster
Élevage: Aged in neutral barrel
Bottling date: July 27, 2022
Release date + price: Jan 2024, \$44

Tasting Notes

The wine's lifted aromatics of red and blue fruits are balanced out by lightly smoked rosemary and freshly ground white pepper with a touch of black olive brine that draws you in to the first sip of fresh bright blueberries and teriyaki lamb jerky. The wine offers a slight grip on the palate, encouraging another sip. Pair with grilled lamb chops with salt, white pepper, and rosemary.

Scores

96 points, *Wine Advocate*
96 points + Top 100 Wine, *Wine Enthusiast*

Scores from previous vintages:
2020 - 94 points
2019 - 95 points

Technical Details

Alcohol: 13.8%
pH: 3.6
Total SO₂: 26 ppm
VA: 0.6 g/L
Glucose + fructose: 0.7 g/L
TA: 6.2 g/L
Free SO₂: 12 ppm