



2000 SYRAH

Santa Barbara County

Winemaker's Notes:

Assembled from three different cool climate vineyards, the grapes for our 2000 Santa Barbara County Syrah all had in common one central theme; their resulting wines were dark, dense and rich. Leading the blend (60%) is our own vineyard located in the extremely cool Santa Rita Hills appellation of the Santa Ynez Valley. Thompson (25%) in the Alisos Canyon area of the Los Alamos Valley, and White Hawk (15%) in the Cat Canyon area of the Los Alamos Valley, are the other two contributing vineyards.

This combination of grapes has led to a full-bodied wine that, although well structured, has a very precocious, soft fruit character. The aroma and palate show ripe boysenberry/blackberry fruit with suggestions of spice, violets, earth and the warmth of toasty oak. We finally have a "Santa Barbara County" offering in Syrah that is a very intense, yet very affordable, follow-up to our Black Label Cuvee.

Technical Notes:

VINEYARDS:

- 60% Babcock Vineyards, Santa Ynez Valley (Santa Rita Hills)
- 25% Thompson Vineyard, Los Alamos Valley (Alisos Canyon)
- 15% White Hawk Vineyard, Los Alamos Valley (Cat Canyon)

AVERAGE AGE OF VINES: 10 years

HARVEST DATES: through October, 2000

FINISHED WINE:

Residual Sugar: Dry
Alcohol: 13.7%
pH: 3.60
TA: 6.8 g/L

VINIFICATION:

Open-top fermenter; punched down daily

COOPERAGE:

35% new French oak (heavy toast); 65% seasoned French oak

TIME IN BARRELS: 9 months

BOTTLING DATE: July 2001

TOTAL PRODUCTION: 660 12/750ml

RELEASE DATE: September 1, 2001