



2001 SYRAH

Santa Barbara County

Winemaker's Notes:

At this point it is not hard to find good "Reserve" wines out there. The real question is, how is the regular stuff? You know, the stuff that one can actually afford to drink on a regular basis. Well as "regular" wines go, perhaps this one takes the cake! Our 2001 Santa Barbara County Syrah can only be described as great. It is a big, dark, chunky wine. Heady, dense Syrah fruit resonates in the nose, and the wine is saturated with big, sweet flavors in the mouth.

It's no fluke. The blend looks like a who's who of great Santa Barbara County Syrah vineyards. Making it possible is a glutted wine market allowing me to make more affordable wines. I can hear it now, "Hey Bryan, the white label Syrah is like a mini Black Label Syrah!" Indeed it is, and it conjures up thoughts of how good the 2001 Black Label Cuvee must be. Enjoy this beautiful wine.

Technical Notes:

VINEYARDS:

Babcock Vineyards, Santa Ynez Valley (Santa Rita Hills)
Thompson Vineyard, Los Alamos Valley (Alisos Canyon)
Alisos Vineyard, Los Alamos Valley (Alisos Canyon)
Beckmen Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley
Larner Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley (Santa Rita Hills)

AVERAGE AGE OF VINES: 5 years

FINISHED WINE:

Residual Sugar: Dry
Alcohol: 14.3%
pH: 3.64
TA: 6.7 g/L

VINIFICATION: Open-top fermenter; punched down daily

TIME IN BARRELS: 14 months in French oak barrels

BOTTLING DATE: February, 2003

TOTAL PRODUCTION: 2,186 cases 12/750ml

RELEASE DATE: March, 2003