



Winery & Vineyards

1997 SYRAH “BLACK LABEL CUVEE”
Santa Barbara County

Winemaker's Notes

This reserve-style Syrah introduces the new “Black Label Cuvée” designation. Perhaps it should be christened “Cuvée Animale” in homage to the more savage side of the Syrah grape’s personality.

The striking combination of our Babcock Estate Vineyard, Thompson Vineyard, and Alisos Vineyard fruit led to an incredibly concentrated red, reminiscent of the extracted wines that come out of Hermitage and Cote Rotie in the northern Rhone region of France.

A knockout nose of ripe blackberries, damson plums, and licorice carries through to a rich, round palate. It’s impressive now, and it’s built to last.

Technical Notes

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

100% Syrah

VINEYARDS:

38% Babcock Estate Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley

34% Thompson Vineyard, Los Alamos Valley

28% Alisos Vineyard, Los Alamos Valley

FINISHED WINE:

Residual Sugar: Dry

Alcohol: 14%

pH: 3.8

TA: 6.5 g/L

VINIFICATION:

Open-top fermenter; punched down daily

COOPERAGE:

50% new French oak; 50% seasoned French oak

TIME IN BARRELS: 16 months

BOTTLING DATE: March 1999

TOTAL PRODUCTION: 898 750ml; 6 cs 1.5L; 6 bottles 3 Liter

RELEASE DATE: June 1, 1999

CALIFORNIA RETAIL PRICE: \$40.00