

STOLPMAN VINEYARDS

BALLARD CANYON

GRENACHE 2015

TECH

VINEYARD COMPONENTS

Block 1 & 5

VARIETAL BLEND

100% Grenache

VINIFICATION

50% whole-cluster, fermented in unsealed concrete

FINAL ANALYSIS

alcohol: 14.1%

VATTING/FERMENTATION

shorter, 12 day native fermentation for tannin management, one pump-over per day, 2 punchdowns total. Only free-run juice used, no press wine

COOPERAGES & ELEVAGE

18 months in neutral, 500L Puncheon

RELEASE DATE

October 2017

HARVEST DATE

September 23-24, 2015

TOTAL PRODUCTION

390 cases

2434 ALAMO PINTADO AVE - PO BOX 488

LOS OLIVOS CA 93441 USA

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NOTES

BACKGROUND

We have slowly built up our Grenache acreage to 15 acres over three distinct blocks spread out over the vineyard. Lately, we dedicate the younger vines to Rose production while reserving the two mature blocks to this red.

VINTAGE

The low yields and early ripening of 2015 played into the nature of the Grenache grape perfectly. Rich, pure, fresh red fruit defines a great Grenache – and in 2015 the vines had no problem delivering.

AT THE WINERY

2015 marks the 10th vintage of bottling a Grenache here at Stolpman and with the release of this vintage, I finally feel as though our experimentation has paid off. We made our way through the full pendulum of wine-making – originally de-stemming the entire crop and then going all the way to almost 100% whole-cluster fermentation. We've now settled back to 50% whole-cluster – lending just enough woody-structure to support the intense fruit of the 2015 Grenache.

At the same time, we've become gentler in our extraction techniques to allow for finer tannins. Lastly, we've transitioned to quicker, less extractive fermentations. The resulting wine possesses a deep, silky fruit profile all the way through the palate with lovely, soft tannins.

SENSORY

Lush, deep red fruit with a slightly riper profile than years past. A supporting cast of dried Provencal herbs skirt the finish to balance the pure drive of red fruit. The wine is a sultry, voluptuous Grenache with a focused, precise red core. I get lost in the depths of the red fruit and only then notice flourishes of violets and lavender.