

STOLPMAN VINEYARDS

BALLARD CANYON

HILLTOPS SYRAH 2013

TECH

VINEYARD COMPONENTS

Block B2, High Density Clone 470

VARIETAL BLEND

100% Syrah

VINIFICATION

natively fermented in open top unsealed concrete fermenters, 50% whole-cluster. Kept on skins & stems for 3 weeks. Free run wine only, no press wine included

FINAL ANALYSIS

alcohol: 14.5%

COOPERAGES & ELEVAGE

aged for 20 months in 500L Ermitage Vache Forest Puncheons. 10% new

RELEASE DATE

October 2015

HARVEST DATE

September 30th, 2013

TOTAL PRODUCTION

330 cases

2434 ALAMO PINTADO AVE - PO BOX 488

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NOTES

BACKGROUND

When Tom Stolpman found our property in 1987, he suspected that the best wines would come from the rolling hillsides and crowns. We began planting the elevations in the northeast corner of the ranch and fanned out on the two ranges of hills west. At the end of 2003, we scrapped the underperforming middle hill and replanted it at 3,000 vines per acre. By that point, Sashi, Ruben, and Tom unanimously agreed Syrah was king in Ballard Canyon. Ruben planted multiple clones of Alban and some of our other favorite Syrah strains. As early as the first vintage, the new planting showed magically and thus by 2008, our esteemed Hilltops Syrah bottling was sourced entirely from Block B.

VINTAGE

The extremely low yields of 2013 show themselves in the intensity and vibrancy of the Hilltops Syrah. Sashi selected only the micro block B3, clone 470 for this bottling, and therefore only 330 cases were bottled.

AT THE WINERY

Since the debut 2012 vintage, we have fallen more deeply in love with our unsealed square concrete fermenters. The slow, gradual, and naturally cool fermentation pulls every hint of flavor from the grapes while allowing the wine to maintain an appealing softness and roundness.

SENSORY

On the nose Hilltops shows off bright red plum and a touch of the Tangerine peel aroma synonymous with the best Santa Barbara County Syrahs. Subtle menthol and fresh cut herbs edge around the exceedingly pleasing wine. On the palate more dark brooding fruit appears alongside currant and cassis. While present, the tannins are already well integrated.