



GUNDLACH BUNDSCHU

EST. 1858

2005 SYRAH, RHINEFARM VINEYARD SONOMA VALLEY

VINEYARD

The six-acre Syrah vineyard on Rhinefarm was planted in 1999 on the upper benchland portion of the vineyard at an elevation of 210 feet with a southwest exposure. The Syrah Noir clone thrives in the rocky, well-drained conditions presented by the alluvial fan that comprises the lower Mayacamas Mountain Range. Topsoils are 18 to 34 inches deep, consisting of Rhyolitic volcanic ash and alluvial wash. Beneath the topsoil is a mostly impervious layer of consolidated volcanic ash with occasional fractures for the roots to penetrate to deeper depths, producing wines with concentrated fruit flavors and firm structural qualities.

VINTAGE

The most challenging growing season in recent history, 2005 provided wine grapes of exceptional quality to those who were vigilant about tending their vines. A cool and unseasonably wet spring and early summer led to excessive vine growth that could easily have put the plants out of balance with respect to fruit and foliage. This meant that workers made numerous passes through the vineyards to remove leaves, thus promoting balance. The mild daytime temperatures through harvest worked to the advantage of wine quality in that this was the optimum environment for flavor and aroma compounds to develop. This coupled with warm nighttime temperatures, which promoted tannin maturity, makes for a vintage of very promising wine quality.

WINEMAKING

The fruit was hand picked in the cool morning hours and destemmed to stainless steel fermenters where the must was inoculated with prepared Rhône yeast strain and gently pumped over throughout fermentation. The wine was aged for 14 months in primarily Burgundian-coopered, high-toast French oak barrels before bottling.

WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES

Deep, dark red/purple color. Touch of lilac and smoke to the black cherry aromas. Soft, lush entry leads to a silky round structure. Dense flavors of black plum with toast and cocoa notes carry through to a rich, lasting finish. Delicious upon release; age up to five years.



VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

100% Syrah

HARVEST DATE:

October 14, 2005

BRIX: 25.4°

BARREL AGING:

14 months in primarily
Burgundian-coopered,
high-toast French oak

BOTTLED:

April 2007

PRODUCTION:

1,488 cases

ALCOHOL:

14.2%

TA:

0.63 g/100ml

pH: 3.66

Jeff Bundschu
Sixth Generation Vintner

