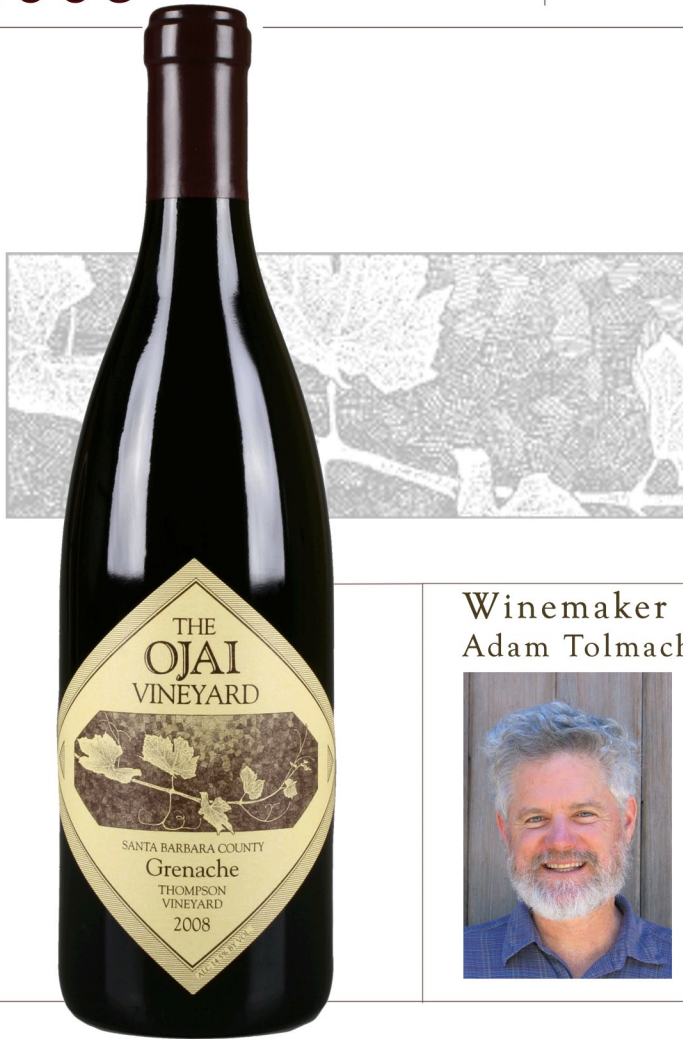


2008 Grenache | Thompson Vineyard, Santa Barbara County



Winemaker
Adam Tolmach



Blend: 80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre
Vineyard: Thompson
AVA: Santa Barbara County
Alcohol: 14.5%
Vinification: 10% New French Oak
Barrel Aging: 16 Months
Total Production: 336 Cases



Winemaker's Notes

Grenache, the grape backbone for the wines of southern France, is relatively light colored but particularly flavorful and aromatic, so it is sometimes thought of as the pinot noir of the south. But unlike pinot noir, which is almost always made as a 100% pure varietal, Grenache is best when blended with syrah, Mourvedre and other varieties. Together there is a synergy that makes a most satisfying wine. The better known Rhone varietal, syrah, often makes a heavier, more herbal and animal beverage, but Grenache's magic is all about raspberry, strawberry and red plum aromatics. When harvested at the right moment Grenache has a freshness that makes it most delicious with hearty foods and also allows it to age gracefully for years.

Grenache's most revered quality is its aroma. There is no other red wine besides pinot noir that can express itself with so much fragrance. So that is why we are particularly proud of our 2008 grenache—It's redolent with the aroma of raspberries and wild herbs. The varietal personality literally jumps from the glass and the flavors are fresh, lively, and again, very raspberry. This wine is so friendly and delicious it is easy to enjoy today, but like previous vintages, it will continue to evolve positively for another decade or more. The 2008 is a blend of 80% grenache, 10% mourvedre and 10% syrah, all grown at Thompson Vineyard in the Los Alamos area.

Press Reviews

Stephen Tanser's International Wine Cellar

"Vivid ruby. Slowly opens to displays scents of raspberry, cherry pit, white pepper and candied rose. Sappy and precise, with tightly wound red fruit flavors that pick up weight and sweetness with aeration. Shows very good intensity on the finish, which clings with impressive tenacity." - JR 91

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

"The 2008 Grenache Thompson is a deceptively medium-bodied wine endowed with considerable palate presence and depth. Dark red cherries, flowers and mint are woven together in this relatively delicate, refined Grenache. I especially like the integrity of the fruit, but find less of interest in the aromatics. If the bouquet develops with further time in bottle, the 2008 could very well merit a higher score." - AG 89

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