



2018 SYRAH

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

1220 CASES PRODUCED

The cool, often foggy climate of northern Santa Barbara County turns out to be one of the most ideal places to grow Syrah anywhere outside of the northern Rhone Valley in France. Here we have three valleys that run East-West to the cold Pacific Ocean, so they feed brisk coastal breezes inland and Syrah ripens gradually. Instead of the thick, jammy bombast that Syrah shows from warm vineyards, here you get that mysteriously earthy, exotic and spicy side of the varietal.

In this 2018 bottling you see our cool vineyards flaunting the character of a cool vintage, too. After the fast harvests of the warm drought vintages before, we finally enjoyed a year where we could let the fruit hang and build character without worrying about a thing about balance. The assemblage here is strictly Syrah, and strictly from our coastal vineyards in northern Santa Barbara County.

The varietal fragrance is striking and pungent—the nose provides a complex profile of incense and pepper, suede leather, balsamic and violets—while a deep core of mocha cherries and plum promises rich pleasure for the mouth. It works out that way, too. The palate is suave and easy, with front-loaded fruit that glides into savory notes of olive and peppery charcuterie. This wine is always one of our best bargains, but man this bottling is just thrillingly good Syrah for the price.

BLEND 100% Syrah

VINEYARDS 48.5% Bien Nacido, 27.8% John Sebastiano, 17.2% Cottonwood Canyon, 4% Duvarita, 2.5% Roll Ranch

ALCOHOL 13.0%

VINIFICATION 100% Neutral French Oak

BARREL AGING 10 Months

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THE
OJAI
VINEYARD