



# 2018 SYRAH

## JOHN SEBASTIANO

### STA. RITA HILLS

This Syrah comes from the cool, steep, wind-blasted slopes at John Sebastiano Vineyard. The site provides loads of cool-climate Syrah intrigue in any year—it's always amply spicy, fragrant and savory—but we're particularly excited about this 2018 bottling. The vintage was cool and breezy throughout veraison; ultimately we picked this Syrah at 22 brix in the first days of November. That long hang time (longest since 2011) provides loads of intensity in the fruit.

You find it's deceptively boisterous and berry scented initially (in this first year after bottling), and after an hour or so being open you see the wine scaffold and build into this stratified aroma bomb. The perfume here reminds us of our favorite Cote Roties, with ethereal scents of flowers, woodsiness, incense and cacao. The palate is suave and glossy with peppery dark stone fruits lifted by mouth-watering raspberry. Complex flavors of savory herbs, tobacco and chai spice give a stirring kind of deliciousness.

One of the great things about JSV Syrah is that it's always approachable relatively young. This year is supple and graceful as any. But this wine is a baby still, so you'll just want to give it some air (or some cellaring) to appreciate the whole spectacle.

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**BLEND** 100% Syrah

**VINEYARDS** John Sebastiano

**AVA** Sta. Rita Hills

**ALCOHOL** 13.0%

**VINIFICATION** open top fermentation with 8% whole clusters

**BARREL AGING** 18 months in French oak, 17% new

**TOTAL PRODUCTION** 285 Cases

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## PRESS REVIEWS

### Jeb Dunnuck

"Another wine that got a big "Wow" in the notes was the 2018 Syrah John Sebastiano Vineyard. This medium-bodied, Côte Rôtie look-alike offers a brilliant bouquet of ripe red and black berry fruits, white pepper, flowers, iron, and bouquet garni. Fresh and incredibly complex, with silky tannins and no hard edges, this is a California Syrah for the Jamet lovers out there!" **96 Points**

### Antonio Galloni's VINOUS

"The 2018 Syrah John Sebastiano is a deep, powerful wine that is going to need a few years in bottle to soften, as it is pretty tightly wound at the moment. Blue/purplish fruit, lavender, spice and menthol add a touch of whole cluster savoriness and give the 2018 an exotic quality that is impossible to miss. This is an especially fine rendition. There is so much character here." **93+ Points**