



2019 SYRAH SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

TASTING NOTE

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 2019 bottling you see our cool vineyards flaunting the character of a cool vintage, too. The varietal fragrance is striking and pungent. The nose provides a complex profile of incense, well-oiled leather leather, balsamic and violets, while a deep notion of mocha cherries and mulberry 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 tobacco, umami and chai spice. The finish is enlivened by sneaky floral notes and fine tannin that keeps you coming back for more.

Vineyard Blend: Syrahs from John Sebastiano 66%, Roll Ranch 13%, Bien Nacido 2.5%, Grenache from John Sebastiano 18.5%

PRESS REVIEWS

Jeb Dunnuck

"A year in, year out winner is the 2019 Syrah Santa Barbara County. Medium ruby-hued and semi-opaque, it has a great, perfumed nose of ripe berry fruits, violets, and peppery herbs that carries to a medium-bodied, silky, wonderfully balanced Syrah that's going to deliver loads of pleasure over the coming 4-6 years." **91 Points**

Antonio Galloni's VINOUS

"The 2019 Syrah (Santa Barbara County) is a gorgeous appellation-level wine. In 2019, most of the fruit is from John Sebastiano, and includes a bit of Grenache. Blue/purplish fruit, lavender, spice and black pepper open with a bit of time in the glass. This is such an attractive and distinctive wine." **90 Points**

BLEND Syrah 81.5%, Grenache 18.5%

VINEYARDS Syrahs from John Sebastiano 66%, Roll Ranch 13%, Bien Nacido 2.5%, Grenache from John Sebastiano 18.5%

AVA Santa Barbara County

ALCOHOL 13.5%

VINIFICATION open top fermentation with 22% whole clusters

BARREL AGING 16 months in neutral French oak barrels

TOTAL PRODUCTION 840 Cases

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THE
OJAI
VINEYARD