

2019 SYRAH DUVARITA SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

TASTING NOTE

Duvarita is a biodynamically farmed vineyard way out by Lompoc (past the Sta. Rita Hills). The extremely cool-climate environment here allows Syrah to show its most earthy and energetic potential. This 2019 bottling is packed with fragrances of herby dark fruits laced with beef jerky, pipe tobacco, star anise and lavender. A burst of gamey dark fruit and olives shifts up into high-toned flavors of cranberry sauce, crème de violette, and black raspberries. That fine bite of minerally tannin frames the finish as it folds back into meaty notions of seared beef and Chinese five-spice. It packages a lot of power within a lithe framework. While it's friendly enough on the palate already, air takes the wine into another level. Some aging (or decanting) isn't quite essential, but we heartily recommend it.

VINEYARD

Duvarita provides the most savory and energetic wine within our bevy of cool-climate Syrahs. This biodynamically farmed vineyard is situated way out near the edge of Lompoc, west of the Sta. Rita Hills. It's lined up with the wind gap where the Santa Ynez River meets the ocean, so the vines are scoured by chilly Pacific breezes. To get Syrah ripe, it has to be planted like vineyards in Champagne, with the fruiting wire just shin high off of the ground. The wind is devigorating for the vines, and so are the nutrient-poor Elder soils, which are extremely sandy. Duvarita's spiciness and herbal tones are so inherent that we've never used stem inclusion when fermenting this wine. It's always wild enough without that influence.

PRESS REVIEWS

Antonio Galloni's VINOUS

"The 2019 Syrah Duvarita Vineyard is another standout from Ojai. Dense and layered, the Duvarita Syrah packs quite a punch. Blue/purplish fruit, licorice, menthol and lavender are all dialed up. The 2019 was done with fully destemmed fruit, and that comes through in its sheer density and purity of the fruit. This is a superb showing." **95 Points**

BLEND 100% Syrah

VINEYARD Duvarita

AVA Santa Barbara County

ALCOHOL 13.5%

VINIFICATION open-top fermentation with fully destemmed fruit

BARREL AGING 20 months in French oak barrels, 12% new

TOTAL PRODUCTION 188 Cases

OJAI VINEYARD