



2020 SYRAH JOHN SEBASTIANO

STA. RITA HILLS

TASTING NOTE:

This 2020 John Sebastiano Syrah gives an intense blast of cool-climate Syrah character. That's despite a hot vintage, which did lend the wine a more heady and fleshy presentation than usual. Still, the haunting aromatics, savoriness and freshness that John Sebastiano gives are there in spades. There's a deluge of savory scents with game and tapenade galore, along with exotic scents of incense, sweet flowers and dried herbs. Beneath that, deep and sultry mocha-flecked dark fruits. It's round and lavish up front with kirschy dark berries, then animated by juicy raspberry tang. The finish gives salty olive and peppery charcuterie along with fine smoky mineral tannin.

In a way, this wine reminds us of some of our older Melville Syrahs. It's big and rich, but suave and full of flashy cool-climate character. Those wines have aged beautifully and this will too, but nothing stands in the way of enjoying it now.

VINTAGE & WINEMAKING:

2020 was consistently warm, at times hot. This gave our Syrah higher alcohols and bigger frames than usual, but fortunately we had terrific acidity to balance the heft. This Syrah was harvested in early October, then we destemmed and loaded it into tanks with 20% whole clusters. No sulfites were added at crush.

We immediately inoculated with our house-cultured native yeast, then performed pump-overs twice a day until the wine was dry. We pressed and settled the wine overnight, then transferred it age in French oak barrels (12% new) for 15 months. It was racked once before the next harvest, then bottled unfiltered and unfinned with minimal effective sulfur.

BLEND 100% Syrah

VINEYARDS John Sebastiano

AVA Sta. Rita Hills

ALCOHOL 14.5%

VINIFICATION 20% whole cluster fermentation, pumped over

BARREL AGING 16 months in French Oak, 12% new

TOTAL PRODUCTION 165 Cases

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