

2023 GRENACHE

JOHN SEBASTIANO

STA RITA HILLS

TASTING NOTE:

Our Grenache from John Sebastiano Vineyard is unlike any other that we can think of—the cool, windy environment here makes for Grenache with color, aroma, and freshness that’s off the charts. This 2023 John Sebastiano Grenache has all that thanks to a cool vintage that allowed the grapes to stay on the vine until November.

Your first hint at the vibrancy of this wine is in how it pleases the eyes. There’s a deeply saturated but translucent purple with beams of fuchsia throughout. The fragrances are effusive and focused on Grenache’s immense fruit—in this case, mulberry, black cherry, and raspberry coulis—yet it’s layered with earthy scents of dried flowers, grated spice, and woody greenery. It rolls across the palate with a round plushness at first, with creamy notes of mulberry and raspberry that are animated by that sweet-tang quality of pomegranate concentrate. Earthy savor kicks in on the back half with whole-cluster flavors of woody herbs and nutmeg, then it closes out with ultra-fine mineral tannin and mouthwatering fruit.

VINEYARD:

John Sebastiano Vineyard was planted in 2007 and produced its first crop in 2010. It is located on the northeastern edge of the Santa Rita Hills appellation, way up in the hills where the vines are scoured by ferocious winds that come in from the ocean at Vandenberg Air Force Base. This is a very different place than most of the Grenache world, which tends to be pretty warm, if not hot. Those environments are where Grenache shines as a blending grape. At John Sebastiano, we’ve found there’s an ethereal completeness in Grenache, thanks to the fact that it truly struggles to ripen here (in 2021 it never ripened fully).

This fruit is always the last to come into our cellar, often in early November. The long growing season that this site allows for Grenache helps the grapes develop exceptional color, aromatics, and flavor, while also preserving an uncommon freshness and acidity. We haven’t tasted any Grenache from the Southern Rhone or Spain that reminds us of this wine. It’s simply alive, fresh, and complete in a way that’s unusual for Grenache.

BLEND 100% Grenache

VINEYARDS John Sebastiano

AVA Sta Rita Hills

ALCOHOL 14.0%

VINIFICATION open-top fermentation with 16% whole-clusters

BARREL AGING 14 months in neutral French Oak barrels

TOTAL PRODUCTION 157 Cases

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A BARBARA COUNTY
Grenache
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AUGUST 15, 2023