

2024 SYRAH CLIMA FRÍO

TASTING NOTE

There is something uniquely special to us about cool climate Syrah, and this wine allows us to capture just how savory and nuanced Syrah can be from the cooler pockets of Santa Barbara County. Aromatically we find it very varietally “correct” on the nose; savory spice and cracked pepper lead, followed by a core of red and dark fruit with subtle floral notes. The palate is energetic and well-balanced, showing early approachability without sacrificing structure. It’s drinking well now, with the depth to continue developing gracefully over the next decade or more.

ABOUT CLIMA FRÍO

Our Clima Frío wines replace what we used to call Santa Barbara County cuvees. While that appellation-level name fit our Burgundian inspirations at The Ojai Vineyard, the name didn’t adequately capture what we’re doing in the region. Santa Barbara County is a large appellation with intense East-West temperature gradients, even within the Sta. Rita Hills, where some eastern pockets are better suited to Syrah and Grenache than they are for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

These wines express our commitment to the coolest, most western viticultural pockets of our region. Places where each variety benefits from ocean influence that ensures slow, gradual ripening with retention of nuance and natural acidity. Like our single-vineyard bottlings, these wines come from carefully farmed and hand-picked grapes. They’re just bottled earlier to capture a plush approachability that suits earlier drinking.

VINTAGE & WINEMAKING

This 2024 Clima Frío Syrah comes from grapes grown at Portico Hills (50%), a relatively cool-climate vineyard just West of the town of Los Alamos, Robert Rae (30%) in the eastern Sta. Rita Hills, along with fruit from Kessler-Haak (20%), a fantastically cool and wild site in the Sta. Rita Hills. 2024 was a cool growing season with pick dates spread through October and into November.

Each lot was fermented in open top stainless steel tanks, pressed off to barrel and aged on its lees until bottling. The wine was bottled without fining or filtration. A minimal amount of sulfur was added at bottling.

BLEND 100% Syrah

VINEYARDS Portico Hills (50%) Robert Rae (30%) and Kessler-Haak (20%)

AVA Santa Barbara County

ALCOHOL 13.5%

VINIFICATION open-top native yeast fermentation with 33% whole clusters

BARREL AGING 11 months in neutral French oak barrels

TOTAL PRODUCTION 966 Cases

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