

JUSTIN *Production Notes*



*Our most exotic, enticing,
and exciting Rhône blend!*

Appellation: Paso Robles

Composition: 96% Syrah, 4% Grenache

Bottling Data:

pH: 3.85

Total Acidity: 0.58 g/100ml

Alcohol: 15.8% by volume

Bottling Date: 8/6/2009

Release Date: November 1, 2009

2008 JUSTIN FOCUS

Philosophy

Our goal with FOCUS is to make the most expressive Rhône variety blend we can from our top vineyard sources. Extremely limited production results from severe selection of syrah and grenache. The must was placed in brand new French oak barrels with heads removed for a 72-hour cold soak prior to fermentation using UV-43 yeast. The free-run juice was drained off and returned to the re-coopered barrels for malolactic conversion.

Vintage Summary

The 2008 growing season began with a wet winter that warmed up quickly. Mid-March bud-break prompted early concerns about frost. Indeed, frost struck parts of Paso Robles and the rest of coastal California on April 22. Spring continued dry and warm, spiking unseasonably high in mid-May, and then changing weather patterns weekly. These conditions in some vineyards caused "shatter," also known as "coulure," with crop loss due to flowers that would otherwise become grapes falling off the shoots. This reduced yields by up to 50% in some vineyards. Summer brought typical consistent warm, dry days with cool nights, and no heat spikes. The mild summer allowed the reduced crop to ripen evenly, and picking was determined by flavor profiles in the individual vineyards. All grapes were hand-harvested over a seven week period, and clusters were hand sorted for consistency.

Harvest Notes

Harvest Date: October 28, 2008

Average Brix at Harvest: 27.4° Brix

Vinification:

Fermentation: 100% new French oak barrels, stood vertically with barrel heads removed; 12 days with UV-43 yeast

Punch-downs: 5 times daily during fermentation

Maturation: 10 months in 225L oak barrels (Allier); 100% new barrels

Tasting Notes

Color: Opaque, saturated purple, with a staining viscosity.

Aroma: Primarily black fruit; cassis and blackberry, with blueberry, anise and black pepper. Sweet, intense vanilla from new French oak.

Palate: Dry and powerful; mouth-coating ripe, black fruit with layers of mocha, coffee, and a touch of vanilla. Full ripe tannins lead to a long finish.



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