

# JUSTIN *Production Notes*



## 2009 SAVANT

### *Philosophy*

SAVANT is a wise and clever blend of syrah and cabernet sauvignon, two varieties that harmonize well in Paso Robles. Westside Paso produces syrah rich in color and forward fruit but often soft in tannins, resulting in very early approachability. Open top and barrel fermentation of the syrah incorporates the new French oak framing as quickly as possible, and also helps integrate the fruit and mid-palate weight of the variety. Reserve quality cabernet sauvignon is used to give the blend structure, ageability, and length on the finish.

### *Vintage Summary*

The 2009 growing season began with an early bud break (early March) due to the extremely warm spring temperatures. An early April frost rolled into the Paso Robles area, however our vineyards were unaffected due to their hillside stature. A warm consistent summer segued into moderate early fall. The balanced weather allowed us to pick on flavor profiles without any concerns of excessive heat or cooler temperatures. Our red wine sources and home vineyard have shown incredible density and power of varietal expression. Our relentless vines shrugged off the water of some extensive fall rain showers while retaining great concentration and flavor. The style of the 2009 vintage is flashy and intense.

### *Harvest Notes*

**Harvest Period:** 9/23/2009 – 10/12/2009

**Average Brix at Harvest:** 26.2° Brix

### **Vinification:**

**Fermentation:** 17 Days in open and closed top fermentation vessels

**Pump-overs:** 2 times daily **Punch-downs:** 5 times daily

**Maceration:** 28-35 days

**Maturation:** 16 Months in 100% French Oak (68% New)

### *Tasting Notes*

**Color:** Deep purple, solid to the rim. Glossy and concentrated.

**Aroma:** Big, deep blackberry and blueberry notes, a dollop of ink, and a slight licorice note dominate the syrah high tones. Classical black fruit and woody aromas emerge from the firm cabernet sauvignon presence.

**Palate:** Blockbuster density and ripe black fruit. Satisfying palate intensity with dry long flavors framed by savvy-spicy syrah barrel maturation and cabernet sauvignon structure.

*The best of the Rhône Valley  
meets the best of Bordeaux in  
Paso Robles*

**Appellation:** Paso Robles

**Composition:** 68% Syrah, 32%  
Cabernet Sauvignon

**Bottling Data:**

pH: 3.91

Total Acidity: 0.60 g/100ml

Alcohol: 15.5% by volume

**Bottling Date:** 3/24/2011

**Release Date:** June 8, 2011