

2016 ELIZABETH SPENCER GRENACHE, MENDOCINO COUNTY



APPELLATION: MENDOCINO COUNTY
VARIETAL BLEND: 100% GRENACHE
DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING: SPENCER GRAHAM
WINEMAKER: SARAH VANDENDRIESSCHE
PRODUCTION: TWENTY THREE BARRELS

TASTING NOTES

Ripe, crushed raspberries and strawberries on the nose, with a healthy dose of baked strawberry pie. Plums, lilacs, and rose buds weave in and out of the lively and youthful aroma. The wine is fresh and light on the palate, with an acidity that refreshes and supports the fruit flavors from the front to the back. Juicy plum, raspberry, blood orange zest, and ripe, wild strawberries fill the mid-palate. The finish is crisp and light, with a lingering mineral note. This is a wine that is equally welcome at the table for Thanksgiving or on the patio for a summer's evening.

VINTAGE & VINEYARDS

The 2016 growing season began with winter and spring rains, immediately marking this vintage as different than the previous few drought vintages. That extra ground water gave the vines strong and full canopies which made a big difference at the end of a near perfect growing season when a heat spell settled in. The warm, steady summer produced fruit with deep colors, balanced tannins, and excellent flavor development.

WINEMAKING

Grapes were hand-picked during the second week of September, we harvested at the perfect balance of ripeness and structure. The grapes were de-stemmed and moved to a combination of neutral oak barrels and stainless steel fermenters. We employed a lengthy cold soak, prior to fermentation in order to extract as much of the bright fruit flavors as possible. Native yeasts were encouraged, and the wine was punched down by hand, pressed just before dryness and allowed to complete fermentation resting in barrel.

FUN FACTS

Our Grenache comes from a southwestern facing slope in Mendocino, just east of Ukiah. These Vines planted in the late 1940's in Ukiah on Mendocino's Talmage Bench. Rough, stony soils force these vines to struggle through the growing season and result in tiny berries that possess concentrated aromatics and exuberant flavors. Grenache vines tend to produce a large crop, even on rugged sites such as this. We work closely with the grower to regulate crop size to so that each plant carries only as many clusters as will perfectly ripen. As a result, the grapes retained all of the exotic and alluring aromatics that are characteristic of Grenache.

Elizabeth Spencer

POST OFFICE BOX 608
RUTHERFORD, CALIFORNIA 94573
TEL: 707-963-4762 | FAX: 707-963-1822
WWW.ELIZABETHSPENCERWINES.COM