

T O R



TOR ROCK Grenache Cuvée Cooper, 2012

Blend: 98% Grenache, Terra Bella Vineyard; 2% Syrah
Production: 225 cases
Release date: July 2014

Vintage

It is funny, but “classic” and “perfect” are words bantered about a lot regarding this bountiful, beautiful vintage. To me it was “classic” growing conditions - early bud break, no frost damage, relatively dry spring, with less than an inch in April, then nothing till October, and less than an inch that final month of harvest. One heat spike in June, another in early October, but just beautiful otherwise, with very cool evenings and warm, idyllic days. It was a great year to be a farmer. A vintner had to beware, for after two very short crops in 2010 and 2011 - 2012 set a big crop that had to be thinned many times. By paying very close attention to the crop in each block, I can use the word, “perfect”. Man had to interfere to bring things into balance for what will easily be termed a great vintage.

Vineyards

The Terra Bella Vineyard, located in western Paso Robles, is within sight of the Pacific Ocean, which creates a more moderate climate than found with vineyards further inland. This climate is ideal for red Rhone varietals like Grenache and Syrah, and producing wines with very low pH, good acidity and excellent sugars. The result is rich wines with great varietal characteristics, depth, and balance. The soils are riddled with limestone which restricts growth, sets a smaller crop, and makes for some of the most uniquely distinctive Grenache wines in the world, certainly in California.

Winemaking

The 2012 Cuvée Cooper continues to show us just why we love Grenache so much. This vintage was completely destemmed and fermented with its own wild yeast in a single open top fermenter using a combination of punch downs and pump overs. This is a Grenache for a Grenache purist, not someone who loves Grenache that tastes like Syrah. Once again we bottled this unfinned and unfiltered.

Winemaker’s Tasting Notes

The nose on the 2012 Cooper is all red fruits and earth and then backed up by some light spice and mint. On the palate this is medium weight with more red fruits, roasted meats, white pepper and a touch of licorice. Like the 2011 that came before it - this can be paired with any pasta, meat dishes, or would go wonderfully with cheeses.