

T O R

TOR Syrah

Napa Valley, Rogers La Herradura Vineyard, 2014

BLEND: 100% SYRAH

PRODUCTION: 300 CASES | RELEASE DATE: JUNE 2017

Vintage

2014 was the third consecutive vintage of superlative fruit quality. The year began under the drought conditions, but we received two very well timed and high volume rains in February and March that provided the vines with the hits of water that they needed to kick start the season. Bud-break was perhaps 10-14 days earlier than 'normal' but with a cool spring, the actual flowering was approximately a week earlier than 'normal'. Crop load was good, like 2012 and 2013, so fruit thinning was essential to quality. Mountain vineyards were ok with one to two thinning passes, where the valley floor sites normally required two or more passes to get a more balanced load. When all the fruit was in, we all looked back on our third straight high quality vintage.

Vineyard

We are very impressed with this vineyard site. Our Syrah block is a steep climb up the Conn Valley foothills between St. Helena and Lake Hennessey. The orientation of the vines climbing the hill offers good sun exposure, and the soils are restrictive clay and rock. Syrah likes it here, especially when farmed by Jim Barbour, who knows that Syrah clusters and canopy need thinning to bring the fruit to full maturity. Walking the vineyard at harvest, I felt the crop was in balance and the clusters smaller than I see in most California Syrah sites. You will be seeing many more Syrah's from La Herradura Vineyard.

Winemaking

The 2014 Syrah is the much more classic California than previous versions. This was fermented, destemmed and in an open top tank using mostly pump-overs. The 2014 was pressed just before it went dry and completed its fermentation in barrel with its original wild yeast and wild malolactic bacteria. The majority of the new wood was Francois Frères (all 3 year, air dried), and an increasing amount of Meyrieux barrels. Like all our wines, this went to bottle unfiltered and unfiltered.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The 2014 La Herradura is an early indicator to just how delicious the 2014 wines are going to be. Aromatically this wine shows road tar, deep dark black and blue fruits with a fantastic floral element providing lift. On the palate this is full weight with super sweet, rich and round tannins. Here you get more of the black fruits but not so many of the blue fruits. The finish on this rounds out to a full, complex and completely smooth exit.

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