

CALCAREOUS

VINEYARD



SYRAH

Devil's Canyon

2012

Calcareous Vineyard – Paso Robles



Comments

This wine shows off classic Paso Robles Syrah tones of deep garnet in the glass. The nose is full of melted honeycomb, plum and hints of caramel. Full bodied cream, mocha and bramble berry match well with full structured tannins and juicy acidity. Just a touch of hickory bacon from the French oak combines with leathery fruit to elongate the finish, showing off a wine built to last. Rich and powerful now, should develop impressively over the next 5 years and drink well beyond that.

Vineyard

What formally was known as our Block 6 Estate Syrah has evolved into Devil's Canyon over the past few years. The vines here survive on what is our steepest, chalkiest, and warmest section of all our plantings. The reputation of this block grew not only because sampling of it is typical used as punishment for any cellar transgressions, but also for the remarkable quality of the fruit produced. The unique combination of exposed limestone soil, direct Southwest facing exposure, and over 45% gradient combine to create a wonderfully rich and complex expression of Syrah.

Blend	96% Syrah, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon
Harvested	September 11-20
Avg. Brix	26.4
pH	3.68
Cooperage	50% New French Meyrieux and Cavin, 50% Neutral
Ageing	25 Months
Production	570 Cases

Winemaker Notes

Harvested by hand, the clusters were destemmed and hand sorted before being gravity fed uncrushed into 4.5 -ton open top stainless tanks. During primary fermentation, we used a gentle routine of 2 daily punch downs and a *delestage* as needed by sensory evaluation. The ferments spent a total of 25-29 days on skins to fully extract as much phenolic material as possible. The completed ferments were gently pressed and all fractions racked directly to barrel. The wine was racked once on completion of malolactic fermentation and a small amount of Estate Block 7 Cabernet was blended in to add a touch more structure.

The 2012 Syrah was very dense and tannic in youth, thus a 25 month ageing was called for to give this wine adequate time to evolve and bring the tannin and fruit into balance.