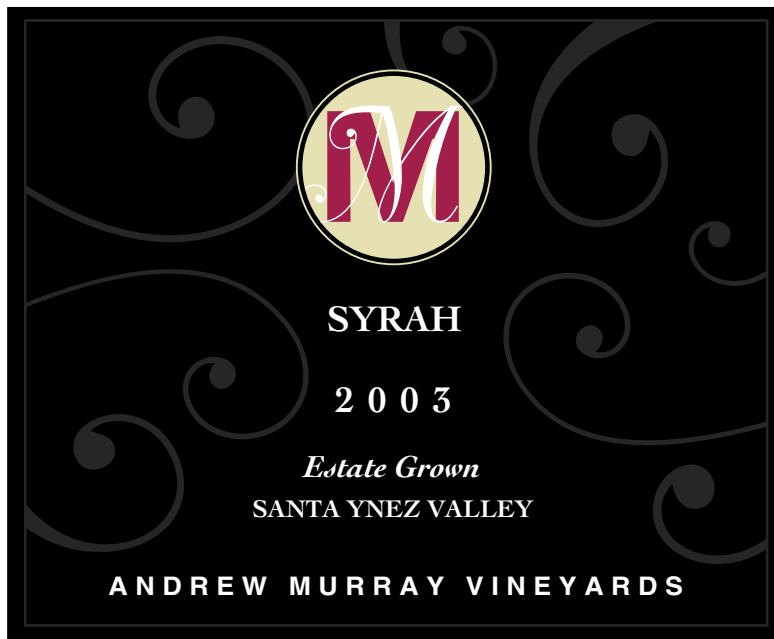


2003 SYRAH "ESTATE"



Andrew Murray Vineyards is Santa Barbara County's only estate hillside-vineyard dedicated exclusively to Rhone varieties. This narrow focus, combined with rocky, well-drained soils, and a very cool microclimate especially well suited for growing great Syrah, make for a fantastic setting in which to craft world class wines, possessing immense richness, maturity, and drinkability. This focus is further defined and refined by our "minimalistic handling" approach to winemaking. All of our wines are hand-picked and "hand-sorted" in the vineyard with an eye for only picking the best fruit. The 2003 vintage was a roller coaster ride of high and low temperatures, which made for a long growing season. In the end, the heat stayed and the Syrah grapes were able to reach a great level of maturity. We were able to harvest an average of 1.8 tons/acre of Syrah from our six diverse estate blocks. The small-berried grapes were hand harvested in the cool, foggy mornings of October, from the ten different estate Blocks. The harvest from each vineyard was kept separate and was then gently crushed and destemmed and moved into open-top tanks. Following a two day cold-soak, the must was allowed to begin a native-yeast fermentation (without the addition of a commercial yeast strain). Fermentation and extended maceration lasted 10-21 days with the cap being punched down into the fermenting must four times daily. Upon completion of the maceration, the must was pressed into small French Oak barriques, where it aged for 18 months. The final assemblage was made 6 months prior to bottling the wine.

WINE FACTS

Composition: 95% Syrah, 5% Viognier
Appellation: Santa Ynez Valley
Soil: Well-drained, gravelly, rocky, sandy-loam
Aspect: South & North facing slopes to 40°
Elevation: 1200 - 1500 feet
Fermentation: Open Top, Punch Down
Aged 18 months in French Oak, 20% New
1200 cases produced
Release Date: April 2005
Alcohol: 14.1% pH: 3.68 TA: 6.9g/L

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

This is the third vintage of our "Estate" Syrah, which is a blend of our various estate blocks. These different blocks yield different flavor and aroma profiles in each of the individual finished wines. This allowed us to blend the various wines together to come up with the perfect balance. This wine is young and racy with aromas of cassis, black cherry, crushed black pepper, and vanilla, and cinnamon, all of which carry into the mouth. On the palate the wine dishes up a wallop of flavors, that leads to an everlasting finish."