



The 109 Mile Grenache

Vintage: 2016

Wine Information: 100% Grenache

Vineyard: Swayze Vineyard (Los Angeles County)

Appellation: California

Harvest Date: August 15

Alcohol by Volume: 13.5%

pH: 3.65

Production: 52 cases

Growing Season: The Swayze Vineyard is a warm climate, high desert site, at 3000 feet of altitude located at the northern edge of Los Angeles County. It is adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest and sits in the shadow of the Sierra Pelona Mountains. The altitude and proximity to the mountains moderates the heat of this site and it registered only 9 days over 100 degrees during the 2016 growing season. The vineyard received a scant 2.5 inches of rain during 2016.

Vineyard: The Swayze Vineyard is planted to a Grenache clone whose identity has been lost to history. They also grow Zinfandel, Alicante Bouschet, Tempranillo, Semillon, and Sauvignon Blanc. All vines are trellised in a modified VSP system with five foot in row spacing and 10 feet between rows with a West to East orientation. The vines are over fifteen years old, grown on deep well-draining soils, and drip irrigated. Low humidity of the site makes mildew pressure essentially non-existent.

Winemaking: Gorgeous, pristine clusters were hand-picked at the peak of ripeness at 24.5 Brix before sunrise and delivered to the winery cold where it was hand-sorted, destemmed, and gently crushed. Acidity, hydration, and SO₂ additions were made to the must before undergoing a three day cold soak in two open-top fermenters. Each lot was inoculated with selected yeast at the end of cold soak. The juice spent a total of 14 days on the skins and was dry at pressing. The lots were racked off the gross lees, held separate, and were later combined after evaluation. The wine spent 10 months in neutral oak barrels before bottling in July.

Tasting Notes: The wine is a light garnet hue in the glass and possesses sensual aromatics. Aromas of cinnamon, melon, violet, and pear predominate with an underlying earthy complexity. It has a beguiling full mouthfeel with a long finish that beckons deep conversation. It is ready to drink today or to enjoy over the next three years.