

PAUL HOBBS

2005 SYRAH KICK RANCH SONOMA COUNTY

INAUGURAL VINTAGE

VINEYARD

- ◆ APPELLATION: SONOMA COUNTY
- ◆ CLONES: HERMITAGE
- ◆ VINE AGE: PLANTED IN 2001
- ◆ SITE: GRAVELY CLAY LOAM, WITH LOTS OF EXPOSED RED VOLCANIC SOIL ON HILLSIDE
- ◆ YIELD: 2.5 TONS / ACRE

HARVEST

- ◆ HARVEST DATE: OCTOBER 12
- ◆ HARVEST BRIX: 26.2°
- ◆ GROWING SEASON: EXTENDED WARM WEATHER IN SPRING LED TO AN EARLY BUDBREAK. THE SUMMER BROUGHT CONSISTENT TEMPERATURES RESULTING IN LOW YIELDS AND ALLOWING FOR EXTENDED HANG TIME. A WAVE OF HEAT AT THE END OF THE SUMMER INCREASED FLAVOR INTENSITY AND COMPLEXITY IN THE FRUIT AND LED TO AN EARLY HARVEST AT THE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER.

WINEMAKING

- ◆ HAND-HARVESTED GRAPES
- ◆ FERMENTED IN SMALL, OPEN-TOP STAINLESS STEEL FERMENTORS WITH INDIGENOUS YEASTS
- ◆ 5 DAY COLD SOAK, 19 DAYS TOTAL MACERATION
- ◆ SPONTANEOUS MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION IN BARRELS, 6 MONTHS TO COMPLETION
- ◆ AGED 17 MONTHS IN FRANCOIS FRERES, CADUS AND DAMY FRENCH OAK BARRELS; 75% NEW
- ◆ UNFINED, UNFILTERED, BOTTLED IN MARCH 2007
- ◆ 95% SYRAH, 5% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

NOTES

- ◆ THIS SYRAH OFFERS ALL THE BOLD, HEADY CHARACTER YOU MIGHT EXPECT FROM THE VARIETAL, BUT IS ABSOLUTELY REFINED IN ITS BALANCE OF POWER WITH ELEGANCE AND SOPHISTICATION. A DEEP RUBY HUE TINGED WITH BLUE IS THE PRELUDE TO A NOSE SCENTED WITH BLUEBERRY AND SUBTLE NOTES OF WHITE PEPPER AND SMOKE. A PALATE THAT IS WEIGHTY ON THE TONGUE WRAPS MOCHA, SWEET TOBACCO AND PEPPER AROUND A RICH CORE OF CRANBERRY AND BLACK TEA THAT SHOWS JUST A SOUPÇON OF SMOKED MEAT. WELL-INTEGRATED AND FINE TANNINS FRAME A WINE THAT IS DRINKING BEAUTIFULLY NOW AND WILL CLEARLY DEVELOP OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. ALCOHOL 15.2%