



BELL

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Syrah 2001 Massa Ranch Yountville Napa Valley

Vineyard

Our 2001 Syrah, Estrella clone, is grown on the Massa Ranch, our neighbors here in Yountville. Proximity to the San Francisco bay and it's moderating influences produces wines deep in color with rich, concentrated fruit flavor and lovely acidity.

Vinification

Syrah grapes were gently crushed to minimize crushing of berries and maximize fruit character. We fermented at 85 degrees-F with a Syrah yeast strain, and extracted color utilizing gentle irrigation over the skins. The wine underwent malo-lactic fermentation and was barrel aged in a combination of French and American oak barrels for 17 months. The wine was not fined and received one filtration prior to bottling. The resulting blend received six months of bottle age prior to release.

Vintage Notes

The 2001 vintage was three weeks early and 15% lighter than usual. Winter rains were about half of normal, and several nights of frost in April added to a cold and harsh spring. The hottest May on record caused shatter in some varieties, and the third hottest June on record hastened vine growth. July temperatures exceeded 100°F but were followed by cool August days and cold evenings. This extended the hang time and allowed the grapes to balance the flavor profiles with the rising sugar levels; yielding big, full wines of concentrated color and flavor.

Tasting Notes

Our 2001 Syrah exhibits wonderful varietal character. Deep purple-ruby in color with spicy fruit aromas, the wine has a rich mouthfeel and distinct, yet elegant, tannins. The oak flavors are in balance with the fruit acidity and fruit flavor to yield an appealing wine, bright on the palate. This wine is destined to become the Merlot alternative for those seeking rich, round, well-balanced yet softer style wines. Aging 17 months in French and American oak barrels adds complexity and finesse, without overpowering the supple fruit. A great companion to food, this wine will continue to mature gracefully for many years.

Technical Analysis:

Varietal	Syrah, 100%
Source	Massa Ranch, Yountville, Napa Valley
Harvest Sugar	25.8 Brix
Harvest Acid	0.45 gm/100ml
Total Acid	0.73 gm/100ml
pH	3.80
Alcohol	15.6%
Aging	17 months in French and American Oak
Bottle Date	April 2003
Production	240 Cases