



BELL

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Syrah 2004 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 its 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 2004 vintage yielded fruit bearing the imprint of an early spring, a slow and steady ripening period that ended with a fast, hot finish several weeks ahead of traditional harvest timelines. Warm, consistent summer weather was bracketed by an early spring bud break, and several late summer hot spells, creating growing conditions that allowed for one of the earliest harvests in almost a decade. Overall yields were lower than expected and the resulting wines show inky color, ripe fruit flavors and great natural acidity.

Tasting Notes

Our 2004 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. Aging 15 months in French, American and Hungarian 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	26.0 Brix
Harvest Acid	0.49 gm/100ml
Total Acid	0.62 gm/100ml
pH	3.46
Alcohol	14.8%
Aging	15 months in oak, 50% new, 55% French, 36% American, 9% Hungarian
Bottle Date	March 2006

