



2008 ROUSSANNE

ESTATE GROWN AND BOTTLED

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

Winery History

We hand craft our wines with character and integrity from grapes sustainably grown in our Santa Barbara County vineyard. Since 1973, we have farmed and nurtured our vineyard to produce wines that are true to the unique spirit of our land.

Our Estate

Roussanne is a richly complex, white grape variety indigenous to the Rhône Valley of France. It is a difficult grape to grow because it is very susceptible to rot and mildew and ripens late. So difficult that there is less than 300 acres planted in the all of California. We are so taken with its haunting aromas and bold flavors that we planted eight acres in our vineyard with the Tablas clone in 1999. We planted another 2 acres in 2006.

Growing Season and Harvest

After a relatively uneventful winter, the vines came to life in early April only to be frost bit in late-April. Thankfully, only a small portion of our vineyard was damaged. May's weather was not any better with sprinkles and wind during the critical bloom period. After a heat spike of +100° in mid-June, things settled down to our normal 55° in the morning and 85° in the afternoon. Harvest started as usual in early September and went quickly as there were few grapes to pick. Another cold snap hit in mid-October, but it did not hurt as most of our grapes had been picked. Yields were low due to the weird weather but the quality was encouraging.

Winemaking

After being hand harvested, this Roussanne was gently pressed and placed in French oak barrels to ferment. The wine was then aged “*sur lie*” or on the lees (yeast and solids) for 8 months, stirring each barrel regularly to enhance the rich, creamy mouth feel.

The Wine

On the nose, aromas of apricots, figs, honey and spice fill the glass. A lingering finish has a touch of minerality, a signature characteristic of our vineyard. Enjoy with lobster risotto, Pad Thai or rosemary roasted chicken over the next five years.

— Eric, Agustin, Ruben, Angel, Jose, Kent, Mary, Ramirez & Brook

Winemaking and Vineyard team



TECHNICAL NOTES

Vineyard Blocks	Zaca Mesa Vineyards: Foxen B2, C
Composition	100% Roussanne (Tablas clone)
Harvest	September 22, 2008
Cooperage	8 months in French oak, 47% new
Cooperage	Dargaud-Jaegle, Mercier, and Demptos
Bottled	June 22, 2009
Total Acidity	0.65 g/100mL
pH	3.33
Alcohol	14.5%
Production	1,380 cases