

Austin Hope

2020 SUISUN VALLEY GRENACHE

Austin Hope is in constant motion and a lifelong learner. He continually pushes his team to explore and experiment with new varietals, new techniques and concepts that will ultimately improve the quality of his wines for everyone to enjoy. When a particular trial or experiment exceeds expectations, Austin is able to share it with the Cellar Club. These small production wines are truly the result of his lifelong passion and yours to enjoy.

HARVEST NOTES

The Suisun (Soo-Soon) Valley AVA is located in Solano County, just east of the Napa growing region. While small at only eight miles long and three miles wide it has been relatively undiscovered until recently. Located near the San Pablo Bay, there is no shortage of cooling afternoon breezes during the growing season creating ideal growing conditions. Soils here are deep and varied types of loam which is well drained and allows roots to grow deep. We source from a small, young vineyard planted with quality in mind. Managed sustainably and thoughtfully, these balanced vines produce complex flavors and dark color.

The 2020 growing season and harvest was near normal in some ways and very unusual in others. Vine growth and berry development was normal through spring. Then, summer brought lingering heatwaves. Of course, the wildfires throughout the North Coast were a concern but there was a low incidence of smoke at this site. Harvest timing tracked as normal.

WINEMAKING NOTES

Hand-harvested clusters were sorted in the vineyard to assure only the highest quality would reach the winery where they are gently destemmed. After being destemmed, this lot was fermented in a four-ton stainless-steel open top fermenter for 20 days. After daily pump-overs (for color and tannin extraction) the tanks are tasted and analyzed for their tannin and structure to determine the length of extended maceration. This lot was aged for 26 months, in 36% New French Oak, 35% Twice used French Oak and 29% Neutral French Oak. This lot was racked two times during its cellar life, with the second to blend together and barrel down in 100% New French Oak where the lot will rest for three months until the final racking, just prior to filtering and bottling in February of 2023.

TASTING NOTES

Austin Hope advised on the planting of Baines Vineyard in Northern California's Suisun Valley, and this wine represents the fruits of his labor. Formally recognized as an AVA in 1982, Suisun Valley lies adjacent to Napa Valley and benefits from the persistent marine influence of nearby San Pablo Bay. This wine underwent extended aging in French oak, adding to its distinction. The result is a uniquely compelling Grenache that shines with bright fruit flavors, pretty textures and earthy undertones.

TECHNICAL NOTES

VARIETAL(S): 100% Grenache

AVA: Suisun Valley

HARVEST DATE: 09/17/2020

PRE-BLEND OAK PROGRAM: 36% New FO, 35% Twice Used FO, 29% Neutral FO for 26 months.

POST BLEND OAK PROGRAM: 100% New FO for 3 months.

TIME IN OAK: 29 months

FILTRATION: Crossflow

ALCOHOL: 14.00%

Cellar Select Series

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