



## 2013 Mesa Reserve

ESTATE GROWN AND BOTTLED  
SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

### Winery History

Our wines are made from sustainably farmed grapes that are estate grown, produced and bottled. With over 40 years of grape growing experience in the Santa Ynez Valley, our winemaking and vineyard teams meticulously farm our vineyard to focus on terroir-driven wines. We began growing Rhône varieties in 1978 when we were the first to plant Syrah in Santa Barbara County. Since then, we have determined that varietals planted in the Rhône Valley of France are best suited to our estate.

### Our Estate

Situated less than 30 miles from the Pacific Ocean, our vineyard is composed mainly of Chamise Shaly Loam. These are well-drained soils that developed over gravelly beds of silt, clay, diatomaceous shale and other sandy water-deposited materials. These soils are on dissected terraces (or mesas) with elevations between 1300 and 1500 feet above sea level. This high elevation combined with cool ocean breezes allow our grapes to retain their natural acidity. Since 1997, the winery has replanted more than half of its original vines with high-density plantings of Rhône varietals with new rootstock and clone combinations.

### Growing Season and Harvest

2013 was one of the driest years on record for Santa Barbara County. Perfect spring and early-summer conditions lead to a healthy sized crop despite the lack of rainfall. Summer had intermittent periods of warm and moderate conditions leading to a harvest that started right on schedule. Harvest was fast and furious, challenging our winemaking team to work long days to bring in perfectly ripe fruit.

### Winemaking

After hand harvesting, the grapes were de-stemmed and placed into small open top tanks and bins to ferment. During the 2-3 week fermentation, the skins were punched-down twice a day by hand to develop rich color and fine tannins. Once dry, the wine was placed into new French oak barrels for 21 months to age. Individual barrels were then selected by our winemakers to create this special reserve wine.

### The Wine

The Mesa Reserve Syrah represents the best of our mesa top vineyard, focusing on exciting younger Syrah blocks. These younger blocks showcase high-density vine spacing and new clonal material, offering a great contrast to the older Syrah vines on the property.

Our 2013 Mesa Reserve Syrah shows off a classic Syrah structure with bold tannins and bright acidity. The fruit is dark with blackberry, plum skin and crème-de-cassis layered with savory herbs, dark chocolate and violets.

~ Eric, Kristin, Agustin, Ruben, Jose, Angel, Gregorio & Ramirez  
*Winemaking and Vineyard team*



## TECHNICAL NOTES

<b>Vineyard Blocks</b>	Zaca Mesa Vineyards Mesa B & Chapel G
<b>Composition</b>	100% Syrah
<b>Harvest</b>	September 9th to September 27, 2013
<b>Cooperage</b>	21 months in French Oak; 35% new
<b>Bottled</b>	July 1, 2015
<b>Total Acidity</b>	0.681 g/100 mL
<b>PH</b>	3.67
<b>Alcohol</b>	14.5%
<b>Production</b>	606 cases