



A Tribute to Grace Grenache, Besson Vineyard 2015

Vineyard: Besson Vineyard

Varietal: 100% Grenache

Alcohol: 13.7% abv

Finishing pH: 3.61

Release date: October 1st, 2016

AVA: Santa Clara County

Harvest date: September 19, 2015 (moon in Scorpio)

Élevage: 11 months in neutral french barrique

Bottling date: August 15, 2016 (moon in Sagittarius)

Total Production: 81 cases

This is my third vintage from the historic Besson Vineyard, and the 104th for this historic parcel. Planted in 1910, the vineyard sits just shy of the Santa Cruz Mountains appellation, on the 'Hecker Pass' linking Santa Cruz to Gilroy.

Owned and farmed by third generation farmer George Besson Jr, these amazing head-trained vines look remarkably like wizards. The vines are spaced 8' x 6' on a gravelly clay loam soil, and were dry-farmed until this drought. George Besson Jr. identifies the living zone of these huge trunks as down to just 1 1/2 inches in diameter, and their tiny, intensely coloured clusters are a wonder to behold. The vines are now spot irrigated as needed, and continue to be organically farmed.

Harvested on September 19th, we received just over 1 ton. Like most of our vineyard sites in 2015, yields were very low. This resulted in extremely concentrated flavours, and phenolic ripeness showed at much lower Brix levels than I have yet seen. 50% whole cluster fermentation, yeasts were native and fermentation lasted 13 days. Pressed to barrel, MLF occurred spontaneously over the winter of 2015. The wine was racked once under July's new moon of 2016.

tasting notes: Anise, Lapins Cherry and Palo Santo.