

Opolo

2020 GRAND ROUGE PASO ROBLES

Our 2020 Grand Rouge is an alternative Rhône-style blend of Grenache (58%), Syrah (22%) and Counoise (20%), composed of fruit from four select vineyards. Grand Rouge is our twist on the traditional "GSM," using Counoise as a differentiator to create a compelling blend.

Vineyards

The Grenache comes from two select sites: Bovino Vineyard in the El Pomar District and Arbor Road Vineyard in the Templeton Gap District. Bovino Vineyard is planted to the iconic Alban clone, which produces small berries with vivid color and fine tannins. The Grenache from Arbor Road Vineyard is planted to a western-facing slope, where mitigated sun exposure fosters lively acidity and lighter color. Both sites combine to bring complementary dimension to the Grenache component. Meanwhile, the Syrah and Counoise come from our estate Quinn East and Nichols East vineyards in the warmer Estrella District, bringing bright blue fruit character to the blend.

Winemaking

After harvesting, the fruit was cold soaked for three days for a gentle extraction of color and flavor. The Grenache was fermented in small open-top bins with twice daily punchdowns, with 10-percent whole cluster inclusion to cultivate textural spiciness. After fermentation, the wine was settled and racked to 10 percent new French oak barrels. The selected barrels were Seguin Moreau Classic and T.W. Boswell Côtes du Rhône Classic. The T.W. Boswell barrels provided a light oak touch with a fine spice character. The Seguin Moreau barrels provided a high impact oak backbone, which we held in check with minimal new oak inclusion. The final blend was assembled at the 12-month mark, then returned to barrels for another five months of maturation prior to bottling.

Winemakers' Tasting Notes

The 2020 Grand Rouge opens with Grenache-driven aromas of strawberry, cherry, sage and dried rose petal. A soft, juicy texture displays elegant flavors of cranberry, black cherry and plum with hints of roast coffee and stem-inspired grip. Notes of light spice dance along a fresh, lively finish.

Varietal Composition

Grenache 58%
Syrah 22%
Counoise 20%

Appellation

Paso Robles

Aging

17 Months in French oak barrels (10% new)

Analysis

TA: 6.0 g/L
pH: 3.70
Alc. by Volume: 13.7%
Cases Produced: 560

