

# Opolo

## 2020 SYRAH

### WILLOW CREEK DISTRICT

This 2020 Syrah is a limited-production reserve wine that comes exclusively from our estate Dove Pond Vineyard in the Willow Creek District, which is renowned for producing some of our region's most formidable Rhône-style wines.

#### Vineyards

Dove Pond Vineyard is situated along the southern portion of the Willow Creek District, directly in the path of cooling marine air that flows inland from the Templeton Gap, a notch in the coastal mountains. Here, the Syrah grape achieves impressive varietal typicity with a cool-climate character, accentuated by the site's calcareous Linne Calodo soils. The savory, peppery profile of this fruit merits its own single-vineyard reserve treatment from this notable district.

#### Winemaking

The fruit was picked on October 16 in the wake of a steady growing season that provided excellent hang time. After harvesting, the fruit was cold soaked for three days for a gentle extraction of color and flavor. The fruit was fermented in a mix of open top bins and stainless steel fermenters over a period of 15 days. The fermentation featured 35 percent whole-cluster stem inclusion to draw out enhanced qualities of savory spice. After fermentation, the free-run juice was separated and reserved exclusively for this reserve Syrah. The wine was matured in French oak barrels, inclusive of 35 percent new oak. Winemakers James Schreiner and Chris Rougeot selected barrels coopered by Damy, Epocure and Rousseau to draw out the best in the wine. At the five-month mark, the final blend was assembled, then returned to barrels for another 15 months of integration and aging prior to bottling. The Rousseau barrels imparted a refined oak character with suppleness and finesse, while the Epocure barrels provided a light touch that respects the fruit. A smaller contribution from the Damy barrels added roasty punch and backbone to the wine.

#### Winemakers' Tasting Notes

The 2020 Syrah Willow Creek is a blockbuster Syrah that is expressive of both terroir and vintage. The nose is complex and enticing with notes of lavender, fresh cherry, toasted oak and dried herb. A focused yet generously textured palate unfolds with flavors of blueberry, black plum, savory meat and white pepper with a sleek mineral core. Fresh acidity brings lift to a chewy, structured finish.

#### Varietal Composition

Syrah 100%

#### Appellation

Paso Robles

#### Sub AVAs

Willow Creek District

#### Aging

20 months in 35% new French oak barrels

#### Analysis

TA: 6.6 g/L

pH: 3.96

Alc. by Volume: 14.8%

Cases Produced: 630

