

Opolo

2021 GRAND ROUGE

PASO ROBLES, CA

The 2021 Grand Rouge is an alternative Rhône-style blend composed of Grenache (47%), Counoise (29%) and Syrah (24%). Grand Rouge is Opolo's 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 west-facing slope, where mitigated sun exposure fosters lively acidity and lighter color. Both sites combine to bring complementary dimension to the Grenache component. The Counoise comes from our estate Nichols East vineyard in the warmer Estrella District, bringing bright blue fruit character to the blend. Finally, the Syrah comes from our estate Dove Pond Vineyard in the Willow Creek District, a prime terroir for Paso Robles Syrah.

WINEMAKING

After harvesting, the fruit was cold soaked for three days for a gentle extraction of color and flavor. The majority of the Grenache was fermented in small open-top bins with twice daily punchdowns, while a small portion underwent carbonic fermentation to cultivate added lift and freshness. After fermentation, the wine was settled and racked to 33 percent once-filled French and American oak barrels. The selected barrels were Seguin Moreau Classic; T.W. Boswell Côtes du Rhône Classic; and T.W. Boswell Silver. The T.W. Boswell barrels provided a light oak touch with a fine spice character, with the Silver edition contributing hints of sweetness to the mouthfeel. 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 five-month mark, then returned to barrels for another 12 months of maturation prior to bottling.

WINEMAKERS' TASTING NOTES

The 2021 Grand Rouge presents summery aromas of rose petal, strawberry jam, cranberry, tobacco and cedarwood. Lithe, supple textures unfold with flavors of raspberry, cherry and baking spices, underpinned by leafy-earthy notes. The predominant palate impression is light and fresh, with a lively energy on the finish.

Composition

Grenache 47%, Counoise 29%, Syrah 24%

Appellation

Paso Robles

Aging

17 Months in French oak barrels

Analysis

TA 5.7 pH 3.69 Alcohol 14.3% Cases Produced 1,315

