

# Opolo

## 2021 SYRAH

WILLOW CREEK DISTRICT | PASO ROBLES

*This 2021 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.*

### ESTATE VINEYARD

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 12 toward the end of a banner growing season that saw steady conditions, ample hang time and excellent phenolic ripeness. 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 (60%) and stainless steel fermenters (40%) over a period of 15 days. The fermentation featured 20 percent whole-cluster stem inclusion to draw out enhanced qualities of savory spice. After fermentation, the free-run juice was separated and selected exclusively for this reserve Syrah. The wine was matured in French oak barrels, inclusive of 50 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 12 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 toasty punch and backbone to the wine.

### WINEMAKERS' TASTING NOTES

The 2021 Syrah Reserve boasts a loaded aromatic profile of lavender, blue fruits, black raspberry, toasted oak, sage and smoked meat. The palate is voluminous and expansive, flush with intense flavors of blueberry, boysenberry, dark chocolate, vanilla and violets. Caramelly tannins and notes of white pepper show persistence on a deep, chewy finish. A blockbuster wine that epitomizes Willow Creek District Syrah.



### Composition

Syrah 100%

### Appellation

Paso Robles

### Sub AVA

Willow Creek District

### Aging

17 Months in French Oak (50% New)

### Analysis

TA 5.7 pH 3.76 Alcohol 14.9% Cases Produced 724