

chateau TUMBLEWEED

2016 Cimarron Vineyard Syrah

Background:

It's hard to believe we've been working with Cimarron Syrah for five vintages now. It's become a real staple in our cellar. Not only does this wine make its way into a couple of our important blends, we always pull our favorite few barrels for a vineyard/variety designate. After last year's successful experiment putting this rich, complex Syrah in Romanian oak, we did it again, giving it an additional layer of smoky, spicy oak.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA

99% Syrah from Cimarron Vineyard. Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Aug. 20th

1% Tempranillo from Cimarron Vineyard. Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Aug. 17th

Sugar at harvest: 25.1 Brix

Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to open-top, 3/4-ton bins. Lot was left ~13% whole cluster.

Cold-soaked 24 hours, then inoculated with specially selected yeasts (Rhone2056, D254, CLOS & UV43).

Hand punched 3-4 times daily.

Inoculated with Malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 7 Brix.

Pressed at dryness after 11 days skin contact.

Settled 2 days before barreling.

Aging:

Aged 4+ months in 50% 1-year-old Romanian oak (Gillet Cooperage)

and 7 more months in 100% neutral French oak barrels.

Twice racked. Filtered, but un-fined.

Stats:

pH: 3.81

TA: 5.7 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 14.4%

Production: 48 cases

Drink now or cellar 5+ years

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

