

chateau TUMBLEWEED

2019 Cimarron Vineyard Grenache

Background:

There's quite a bit of Grenache in Arizona and we've been fortunate to see this varietal from a lot of different growers over the years. It's a tricky, vigorous grape to grow and can often be very light in color. The wines tends to be lighter-bodied, especially in Arizona, but they have a nice strawberry fruit, spice, and, in better cases, a certain grace a lot of varietals don't have. We often call it Arizona's "Pinot Noir," and use it to add prettier notes to in blends like Willy, Dr. Ron Bot and Earth Cuckoo. This is only the second year we've bottled a varietally designated Grenache. Maybe that's because we're getting more comfortable making a couple lighter wines these days, maybe we've just had a couple good Grenache years. Hard to say, but we think this bottling from Cimarron Vineyard in Willcox is something special. Grenache deserves more love! Only two barrels produced.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA – Cochise County

98% Grenache from Cimarron Vineyard.

Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Sept. 20th

2% Grenache from Pillsbury Vineyard.

Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Sept. 26th

Sugar at harvest: 24.4 Brix.

Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to open-top, 3/4-ton bins.

Lot was left ~25% whole cluster.

Inoculated with specially selected yeasts (Rhone2056, VRB & T73).

Hand punched 3-4 times daily.

Inoculated with Malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 1 Brix.

Pressed at dryness after 9 days skin contact. Settled 1 day before barreling.

Aging:

Aged 5 months in 33% 1-year-old French (Damy Cooperage) and 67% neutral oak barrels. Aged another 6 months in 100% neutral oak barrels.

Twice racked. Filtered, but unfined.

Stats:

pH: 3.76

TA: 5.4 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 14.3%

Production: 49 cases

Drink now or cellar 3-4 years

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

