

chateau TUMBLEWEED

2019 Rhumb Line Vineyard Grenache

Background:

2019 was a strange vintage. Growers across Arizona (and beyond) were faced with the biggest yields we've seen in at least 15 years. While not necessarily a bad problem, many growers wound up with surplus fruit and were having a hard time finding customers to take it all. We were very fortunate to get a call in the middle of harvest from Michelle Minta and Todd Meyers from Rhumb Line Vineyard. We'd been hearing good things about their grapes, and, although we didn't really have room for more, we thought it'd be a great way to try some of their fruit, help them out and maybe start a new partnership. We were impressed by the pure and clean fruit characters of the three wines we made from their vineyard in 2019. This Grenache is definitely something special, and Michelle is right to covet this block. So far, we've been unable to secure any Rhumb Line Grenache for 2020. We'll keep working on them... it's perfect for our Willy blend! Only two barrels produced.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA – Cochise County

100% Grenache from Rhumb Line Vineyard.

Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Sept. 7th

Sugar at harvest: 25.2 Brix.

Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to an open-top, 1.5-ton bin.

Lot was left ~25% whole cluster.

Inoculated with specially selected yeasts (UV43).

Hand punched 3-4 times daily.

Inoculated with Malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 2 Brix.

Pressed at dryness after 9 days skin contact. Settled 2 days before barreling.

Aging:

Aged 5 months in 50% 1-year-old French (Marsannay Cooperage) and 50% neutral oak barrels. Aged another 6 months in 100% neutral oak barrels. Twice racked. Filtered, but unfined.

Stats:

pH: 3.79

TA: 5.6 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 14.5%

Production: 49 cases

Drink now or cellar 3+ years

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

