

chateau TUMBLEWEED

2019 Sierra Bonita Vineyard Syrah

Background:

In 2018, we began a partnership with the Smith family, owners of the Sierra Bonita Vineyard in Graham County. They had been pulled away from their wine business by other life forces and were looking to sell their fruit for the coming few years. We were happy to jump in and help them out while also getting to know yet another AZ vineyard. We've been impressed with what we've seen from this organically farmed vineyard so far, and this Syrah really shows the influence of the cooler temperatures they see at this northernmost tip of the Willcox AVA. It's a little denser and more tannic than some of our other AZ Syrahs and the nose is way more intense, with bigger fruit and a little more spice than we usually see in Arizona Syrah. That combination of texture and aromatics easily makes this wine one of our favorites of the vintage. Only three barrels produced.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA – Graham County

100% Syrah from Sierra Bonita Vineyard.

Graham County, AZ. 4,400 ft. elevation. Harvested Aug. 30th

Sugar at harvest: 24.4 Brix.

Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to open-top, $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton bins.

Inoculated with specially selected yeasts (D80, D254 & Ionys WF).

Hand punched 3-4 times daily.

Inoculated with Malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 5 Brix.

Pressed at dryness after 11 days average skin contact.

Settled 1 day before barreling.

Aging:

Aged 11 months in 33% 3-year-old French (Rousseau Cooperage) and 67% neutral oak barrels.

Twice racked. Filtered, but unfiltered.

Stats:

pH: 3.88

TA: 6.1 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 13.9%

Production: 74 cases

Drink now or cellar 6+ years

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

