

# chateau TUMBLEWEED

## 2020 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 excellent AZ vineyard. We've been impressed with what we've seen from this organically farmed site, and this Syrah really shows the influence of the cooler temperatures they see at the northernmost tip of the Willcox AVA. This wine is denser, chewier and more tannic than most of our other AZ Syrahs, and the nose is way more intense, with bigger, richer fruit and more spice. That combination of texture and aromatics easily makes this wine a stand-out of the vintage. Only two barrels produced.

### Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

*Willcox AVA – Graham County, AZ*

*96% Syrah from Sierra Bonita Vineyard.*

*Graham County, AZ. 4,400 ft. elevation. Harvested Sept. 9th*

*4% Petite Sirah from Sierra Bonita Vineyard.*

*Graham County, AZ. 4,400 ft. elevation. Harvested Sept. 17th*

*Sugar at harvest: 24.8 Brix*

### Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to open-top, 3/4-and 1.5-ton bins. Lot was left ~25% whole cluster. Inoculated with specially selected yeasts (Clos, T73, BRL97). Hand-punched 3-4 times daily. Inoculated with Malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 6 Brix. Pressed at dryness after 11 days skin contact. Settled 3 days before barreling.

### Aging:

Aged 5 months in 100% neutral oak. Aged another 6 months in 50% 2-year-old French (Giraud Cooperage) and 50% neutral oak barrels. Twice raked. Filtered, but unfined.

### Stats:

pH: 3.85

TA: 5.8 g/L

RS: <0.10%

Alcohol: 13.6%

Production: 49 cases

Drink now or cellar 6+ years

Winemaker: Joe Bechard

