

chateau TUMBLEWEED

2023 Rhumb Line Vineyard Graciano

Background:

We had been curious about Rhumb Line Vineyard for a few years when we got a surprise call in 2019 from the vineyard's owners, Michelle Minta & Todd Meyers. They were wondering if we were interested in some of their surplus fruit. Curious to learn more about the vineyard and possibly add to our complex fruit sourcing patchwork, we jumped at the chance. Since then, we've been able to secure small amounts of their beautiful fruit and have continued to be impressed by their handiwork. The reds that we've seen from Rhumb Line so far have really stood out with their consistently focused, vibrant and pure fruit characters. This Graciano demonstrates an interesting convergence of light and dark fruit notes with clean, brambly spice and an exciting tannic grip on the finish. Only three barrels produced.

Varietal Composition and Appellation/Fruit Sourcing:

Willcox AVA – Cochise County, AZ

97% Graciano from Rhumb Line Vineyard.

Cochise County, AZ. 4,300 ft. elevation. Harvested Aug. 25th

Sugar at harvest: 24.3 Brix

Cellar Notes:

Destemmed but not crushed to an open-top, 1.5-ton bin.
Inoculated with specially selected yeasts (V1116).
Hand-punched 3-4 times daily.
Inoculated with malolactic bacteria (Omega) around 7 Brix.
Pressed at dryness after 15 days skin contact.
Settled 3 days before barreling.

Aging:

Aged 11 months in 33% 3-year-old French (Alain Fouquet Cooperage) and 67% neutral oak barrels. Twice racked. Filtered, but unfined.

Stats:

pH: 3.79
TA: 5.9 g/L
RS: <0.10%
Alcohol: 14.4%
Production: 74 cases
Drink now or cellar 5+ years
Winemaker: Joe Bechard

