



ampelos cellars



2016 sta. rita hills "delta" grenache

certified sustainability in practice, organic, and biodynamic

harvest

- grenache from the estate is always the last pick of the year. in 2016 we got to the early part of october when it was ready and we picked all of block 3 and 5 on oct 8th
- 2015 was another year with high yields: 3.6 – 4.7 ton/acre
- brix at harvest was nicely low at 23.5 – 25.0 with balanced acid and pH. we just love working with cool climate grenache!

wine making style

- the fruit spent the night in a cold room to drop the fruit temperature
- the grapes were de-stemmed into 1 ½ ton open top fermenters. we always chew on the stems as we destem and chew the stems to determine if we like the flavors – this year we did not feel that the stems were ripe or had the right flavors to be included
- the fermenters cold soaked for 6-8 days until the native yeast fermentation started
- after 8-12 days, with 2 daily punch downs, we drained the free-run (~80%) and gave the remainder a gentle press. at this time the wine was still fermenting but to avoid too high tannin extraction we decided to get the wine off the skins. after 2-4 more days in tank the wine finished fermentation
- the wine was racked into oak barrels where the native malolactic fermentation started
- no racking, fining or filtering

character

- starts with deep, ruby red hues
- the nose indicates candied cherries, floral notes, strawberry and a little cinnamon
- the palate delivers the strawberry and other red fruit components. silky texture with medium and soft tannins.
- a playful wine - "ages gracefully" has never described a wine better than our grenache!

appellation	sta. rita hills
composition	100% grenache – alban clone – no stem inclusion
vineyard source	exclusively ampelos vineyard block 3 (22%) and 5 (78%) – certified sustainability in practice, organic and biodynamic
alcohol	14.2%
pH/acid	3.38/5.87

barrel aging	33 months
oak profile	22% new oak barrels: one french and one east european - the rest neutral oak barrels