

A worthy successor to the '09, though perhaps slightly less muscular, but conversely, incrementally more elegant. We have gotten particularly adept in allowing for the expression of a wonderful savoriness in Cigare, and a pretty nice mastery of tannins. Recent vintages seem to show more structure than years past, and we are convinced that this vintage will be capable of very long ageing.

## WINEMAKER NOTES

Not so dissimilar from our '09 blend, wherein we have a slightly higher percentage of Syrah as compared to the historical norm; we've found that by including compensating levels of Cinsault and Carignane in the blend, we've been able to tame the extreme extraversion of the Syrah component. 2010 was a cool vintage that provided an extra aromatic "lift" to the already vivid Cigare nose. Spearmint, cassis and blackberry leaf with even suggestions of cardamom and cocoa in the nose. The palate is doonright Burgundian—lush, creamy, and savory—lots of dark fruit—sloe and Damson plums, bing cherries and açai (too long in Santa Cruz?) and a bright acidity, with exceptional length. My guess is that this is a Cigare of extreme ageworthy.

## VINEYARD | PRODUCTION NOTES

Grenache (a quarter of the blend, 5% from our former Ca' del Solo estate) adds rich black fruit flavors and a discreet spiciness. Syrah is principally sourced from Bien Nacido vineyard in Santa Maria Valley, which produces the closest analogue we have found to a Northern Rhône Syrah—tannic and meaty in the lower registers; peppery, fruitful and delicately floral in the top, all the while showing great balance and harmony. A select group of non-irrigated, centenarian Contra Costa vineyards continues to provide Mourvèdre for Cigare. A touch of Cinsault provides a very particular fragrance of flowers and aromatic herbs.

## INGREDIENTS

Grapes, tartaric acid and sulfur dioxide.

In the winemaking process, the following were utilized: Indigenous yeast, yeast nutrients and French oak chips.

At the time of bottling, this product contained: 55 ppm total SO<sub>2</sub> and 25 ppm free SO<sub>2</sub>.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Varietal Blend:

28% syrah, 22% grenache,  
17% cinsault, 17% mourvèdre,  
16% carignane

Appellation: Central Coast

Vineyards:

27% Bien Nacido, 23% Evangelho,  
17% Alta Loma, 16% Bechtold,  
9% Gonsalves, 5% Ca' del Solo,  
2% Alamo Creek, 1% Enea

Cellaring: 10-15 years from  
release (February 2014)

Alcohol by Volume: 13.3%

TA: 6.0 g/L

pH: 3.68

Production: 1,344 cases



## WINEMAKER

Randall Graham



## REGION



## SENSITIVE CRYSTALLIZATION

*Balanced and integrated, Le Cigare Volant crystallization exhibits beautiful aromatics and savory floral, fruit and mineral tones. Expressive centralized fruit characters, give way to complex mineral aspects, organization, symmetry and nuanced expression.*

