

A worthy successor to the '12, 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

The 30th Anniversary release of this, our flagship wine. A beautiful wine—dark and mulberry in color as in nose. One scents cool loamy earth with suggestions of raspberries and Damson plums. I do so love the largely Grenache vintages of Cigare; there's an unmistakable spiciness to them—orange peel, cinnamon and black pepper. Grenache is not just about fragrance however; any synesthete worth his/her Maldon salt will know that the scent of Grenache is in part highly textural—soft and velveteen. And sure enough, on the palate the wine is also an essence of *velours*.

VINEYARD | PRODUCTION NOTES

Grenache 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 Cinsaut provides a very particular fragrance of flowers and aromatic herbs.

INGREDIENTS

Grapes, sulfur, and tartaric acid. In the winemaking process, the following were utilized: indigenous yeast, yeast nutrients, and French oak chips, and copper sulfate.

ACCOLADES

Wine Spectator 91 points: "Elegant and open-knit, with accents of game, licorice, raspberry and pepper that build richness toward polished tannins." - Tim Fish, Apr. 2018

WINEENTHUSIAST 93 points: "...subtle mulberry fruit on the nose, a spicy peppercorn kick and plenty of gamy meats. That funky meat quality, from raw to jerkied, is prominent and pure on the sip, surrounded by exotic plums and Middle Eastern spices." - Matt Kettmann, Dec. 2017

VITAL STATISTICS

Varietal Blend:

55% Grenache, 25% Syrah,
16% Mourvèdre, 4% Cinsaut

Appellation: Central Coast

Vineyards:

38% Rancho Solo, 21% Bien Nacido
18% Ventana, 17% Del Barba,
4% Bechtold, 2% Alta Loma

Cellaring: 10-15 years from
release (May 2018)

Alcohol by Volume: 14.5%

TA: 6.5 g/L

pH: 3.48

Production: 2,400 cases



WINEMAKER

Randall Graham



REGION

