

A worthy successor to the '13, 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

Very bright, deep ruby color, lots of black fruit, mulberries and cherries on the nose. There is a pronounced minty, almost alpine pepperiness, which is the unmistakable hallmark of Bien Nacido Syrah. In my mind at least, it is this septentrional (north of 45th parallel) character that so tellingly differentiates Cigare Volant from say, meridional Châteauneuf-du-Pape, giving it an unmistakable lift. I flatter myself, but apropos of "coolth," this wine works a bit like Miles' music—plenty of space between the notes, allowing the wine to expand and grow in the glass. One last (blue) note: While the phenomenon is undoubtedly multi-factorial, the wine is remarkably resistant to oxidation after it's been opened, remaining fresh for the better of a week. This is profoundly good news for the long-term prospects of this wine and for those who still possess a capacious cellar.

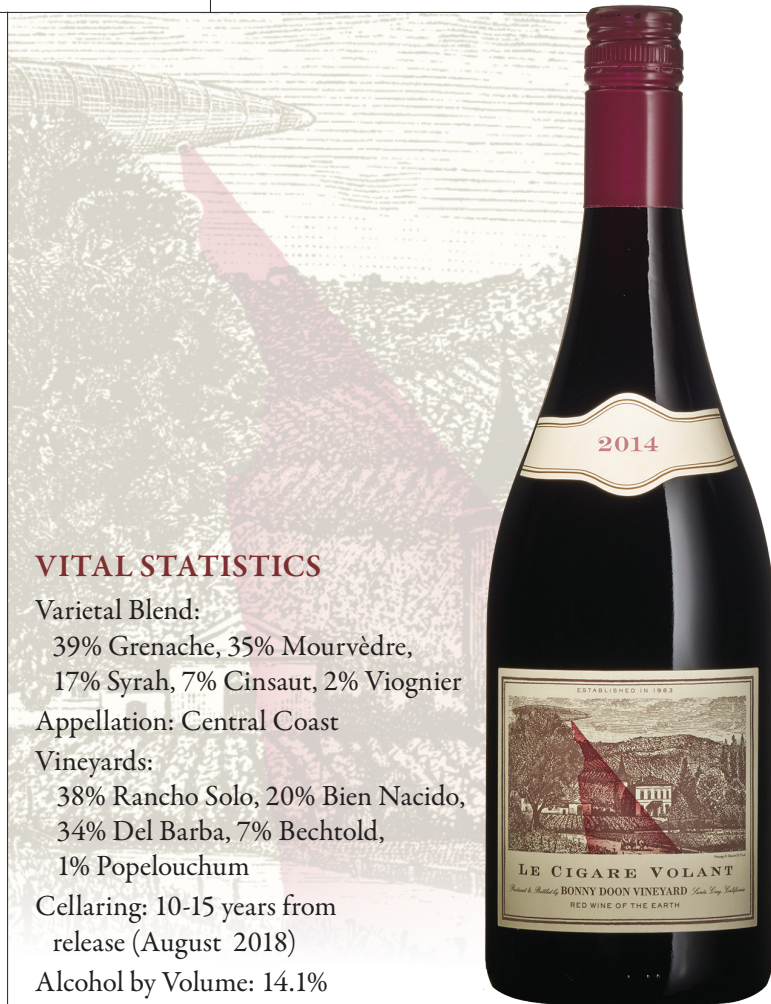
VINEYARD | PRODUCTION NOTES

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. The non-irrigated, centenarian Del Barba Vineyard of Contra Costa continues to provide Mourvèdre for Cigare. A touch of the 120+ year old vines of the Bechtold Vineyard 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.



VITAL STATISTICS

Varietal Blend:

39% Grenache, 35% Mourvèdre,
17% Syrah, 7% Cinsaut, 2% Viognier

Appellation: Central Coast

Vineyards:

38% Rancho Solo, 20% Bien Nacido,
34% Del Barba, 7% Bechtold,
1% Popelouchum

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

Alcohol by Volume: 14.1%

TA: 5.8 g/L

pH: 3.56

Production: 2,296 cases

WINEMAKER

Randall Grahm



REGION

