

A worthy successor to the '10, 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

A beautiful wine-dark, mulberry color, and a first nose of dark, cool loamy earth with suggestions of raspberries, Damson plums and cherry/chocolate. On the palate, it is sleek and racy with a lively acidity, very soft tannins and great persistence. This is a wine from an extremely cool and elegant vintage, and by all experience, should be a great prospect for very long ageing and development.

VINEYARD | PRODUCTION NOTES

Grenache (15% from our former Ca' del Solo estate, now called Rancho Solo) 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 SO₂ and 25 ppm free SO₂.

VITAL STATISTICS

Varietal Blend:

37% Mourvèdre, 34% Grenache,
20% Syrah, 9% Cinsault

Appellation: Central Coast

Vineyards:

22% Ventana, 21% Del Barba,
15% Rancho Solo, 13% Evangelho,
11% Alamo Creek, 9% Bechtold,
6% Bien Nacido, 3% Gonsalves

Cellaring: 10-15 years from
release (April 2015)

Alcohol by Volume: 14.2%

TA: 5.8 g/L

pH: 3.34

Production: 2,527 cases



WINEMAKER

Randall Grahm



REGION

