

A worthy successor to the '11, 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 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, sulfur, and tartaric acid.

In the winemaking process, the following were utilized: indigenous yeast, yeast nutrient, and French oak chips, and copper sulfate.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Varietal Blend:

39% Mourvèdre, 33% Grenache,  
26% Syrah, 2% Cinsault

Appellation: Central Coast

Vineyards:

33% Del Barba, 18% Bien Nacido,  
17% Alta Loma, 11% Ventana,  
7% Rancho Solo, 6% Enea,  
5% Alamo Creek, 2% Woock  
and 1% Spanish Springs

Cellaring: 10-15 years from  
release (June 2016)

Alcohol by Volume: 13.5%

TA: 5.6 g/L

pH: 3.6

Production: 4,000 cases



## WINEMAKER

Randall Grahm



## REGION

