



TWOSHEPHERDS

Making Unique Rhone Wines that Express Their Sense of Place

2011 Syrah | Mourvèdre - Russian River & El Dorado

Release Notes

The 2010 25 case release of Syrah | Mourvedre was a big hit, and Two Shepherds is pleased to offer this again in 2011. I have waited impatiently to release this wine, the last of the 2011 vintage to offer. All of these were bottled at the same time, so why have I waited? I learned my lesson with the 2010 release - many months after its release, and when 2/3 sold, the finish suddenly developed this wonderful salty finish, similar to what one tastes from the juices of a rare piece of steak. This only comes after extended bottle aging, and thus the last of the 2011s to be released for sale.

Winemaking Notes

This release is a blend of 55% Syrah from the Saralee's Vineyard of Russian River Valley, and 45% Mourvèdre from El Dorado, farmed by legendary Rhone grower Ron Mansfield. The grapes were picked at modest Brix (sugar) level to maintain balance and acidity. The grapes were destemmed, with a small amount (10%) whole cluster in the bottom of the small fermentation bin.

After fermentation was complete, the wine was pressed to neutral (4+ year old barrels), where it aged for 10 months, 4 months on the lees. This allows the varieties to express themselves unmasked, in balance, and deliver the true experience of the vintage and place. The wine was blended and bottled in August 2012.



Tasting Notes

The Syrah component, coming from the cool climate Russian River was very Côte-Rôtie in style, and blended perfectly with the Mourvèdre adding some meatiness, dark fruit, and salinity.

Dark red in color, the nose is full of black currant and blackberry, with spice with notes of ginger. In the mouth, it tastes dark red and black fruits, vibrant, with noticeable saline and mineral characteristics on the back palate and finish. Drink now, or cellar for 1-5 years (or more.) This saline note on the finish lingers and lingers, and it will become even more prevalent with bottle aging. I love this wine solo, but it pairs deliciously well with medium rare red meat dishes.

Technical Notes

- **Varietals:** 55% Syrah, and 45% Mourvèdre.
- **Vineyard:** Saralee's Vineyard, Russian River Valley. Mourvèdre: El Dorado
- **Harvest Date:** Syrah: 10/19/2011. Mourvèdre: 10/26/11
- **Brix at harvest:** Syrah: 23. Mourvèdre: 23.5
- **pH** 3.7, T.A. 0.6 g/100mL
- **Alcohol:** 13.8%
- **Fermentation:** small open top bins, 10% whole cluster.
- **Aging:** 10 months in neutral French oak
- **Case Production:** 40 cases
- **Suggested Retail:** \$38 available online, the winery & at select Bay Area wine shops and restaurants
- **Winemaker:** William Allen

www.twoshepherds.com

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