

2006 Qupe' Syrah "Santa Barbara County"

This wine is 98% syrah, 1.5% Grenache and .5% counoise. It is from 87% Santa Barbara County, 10% Paso Robles, 2% San Luis Obispo and 1% Arroyo Grande Valley. The main vineyard sources are: 36% Purisima Mountain Vineyard (Biodynamic); 21% Alisos Vineyard; 14% Colson Canyon Vineyard; and 11% Bien Nacido.

This is a seven barrel blend from some of our top single vineyard sites in cool Santa Barbara County, spiced up with a little bit of warmer, juicier Paso Robles fruit. The various lots were fermented and aged separately, 15 months in French oak barrels using about 20% new Francois Freres and Ermitage barrels. The wine was blended and bottled without fining or filtration in January 2008.

This is a spicy, cool climate syrah. The outstanding 2006 vintage allowed for long hang time and fully ripe grapes at relatively low alcohol. There is a classic dark berry character from the Purisima Mt. and Bien Nacido components, with nice dollops of pepper and licorice from Alisos and minerality from Colson Canyon. The acidity is cool and firm and melds into a full, rich mouthful of juicy syrah fruit. The tannins are there but nicely integrated after long barrel aging. The excellent balance allows for current drinkability and will also age nicely for 7-10 years.