



2017 SYRAH

ROLL RANCH VINEYARD UPPER OJAI, VENTURA COUNTY

Roll Ranch is unusual. Most warm climate vineyards have no problem ripening fruit, the issue is whether they can produce balanced wines. Vineyards in warm sites generally turn out grapes with too much sugar and too little acidity, the resulting wines are often awkward. But at this site we are blessed with great balance.

Being a warm site we ferment the Roll Ranch in a fundamentally different way. We add a small portion of viognier to help propel the aromatics, and rely on fermenting with a majority of whole clusters to bring a spicy character to the wine. Making this wine has been a 20+ year evolution. Learning how to listen to what a vineyard has to say and capturing its spirit is a slow process!

Stepping away from the plummy opacity that dominated this wine's youth in years past, there's some transparency into the finer, once slow to show aspects of Roll Ranch. There's more room for the co-fermented Viognier to express itself, melding with the Syrah to express lavender chocolate, just torn Apricot, and rich seductive flavors of ripe cherry and muddled raspberry. What is lavish gets balanced by appealing dustiness and the earthy punctuation of dried herbs and nutmeg from the stems. It will continue to evolve a long while, but this Roll Ranch Syrah just rocks already—how nice is it to not have to wait ten years first?! Drink now or watch it develop over the next 20 years, Roll Ranch wines age gracefully.

BLEND 98% Syrah 2% Viognier

VINEYARDS Roll Ranch

LOCATION Ventura County

ALCOHOL 14.5%

VINIFICATION 14% New French Oak

BARREL AGING 20 Months

TOTAL PRODUCTION 332 Cases

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THE
OJAI
VINEYARD