



2021 SYRAH

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

657 CASES PRODUCED

Of all the grapes I've worked with over the past 40+ years, Syrah remains my biggest obsession and our flagship varietal at The Ojai Vineyard. That said, after many years it remains a misunderstood grape in California; many people aren't sure whether to expect something jammy, thick and sweet or something peppery, savory and lively.

The cool, often foggy climate of northern Santa Barbara County turns out to be one of the most ideal places to grow Syrah anywhere outside of the northern Rhone Valley in France. Here we have three valleys that run East-West to the cold Pacific Ocean, so they feed brisk coastal breezes inland and Syrah ripens gradually. Instead of the thick, jammy bombast that Syrah shows from warm vineyards, here you get that mysteriously earthy, exotic and spicy side of the varietal.

The varietal fragrance is striking and pungent—the nose provides a complex profile of incense and pepper, suede leather, balsamic and violets—while a deep core of mocha cherries and plum promises rich pleasure for the mouth. It works out that way, too. The palate is suave and easy, with front-loaded fruit that glides into savory notes of olive and peppery charcuterie. This wine is always one of our best bargains, but man this bottling is just thrillingly good Syrah for the price.

BLEND 90% Syrah & 10% Grenache

VINEYARDS 50% Cottonwood Canyon & 40% Kessler-Haak for Syrah, & 10% Grenache from John Sebastiano Vineyard

ALCOHOL 13.5%

VINIFICATION 40% whole cluster in 100% Neutral French Oak

BARREL AGING 10 Months

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THE
OJAI
VINEYARD