



ARAUJO ESTATE WINES 2009 ALTAGRACIA

WINEGROWING INFORMATION

The fine 2009 growing season began with a dry January, suggesting a third year of drought weather, but rains in February and again in May helped the reservoirs fill to capacity and provided much needed moisture to the vineyard. The fruit set was excellent and the vines were poised to grow rapidly, but some noticeable heat in June kept the plants in check and reduced the amount of canopy management for the crew. Temperatures throughout the summer remained on the cool side with plenty of morning fog, allowing the vines to slowly ripen their crop without typical heat stress until short heat spikes in late August helped push the berries to perfect ripeness while maintaining superb acidity. Harvest began somewhat early; the first block of Cabernet was harvested on September 16th and the final grapes were picked on October 12th. The fruit was sorted, de-stemmed and cold-soaked, undergoing native yeast fermentations and macerations in small stainless steel tanks. The wine was aged in 100% new French oak barrels for 21 months and bottled in September 2011. This vintage, in addition to fruit harvested from the Eisele Vineyard, we sourced grapes from two other stellar Napa Valley vineyards; some of the resulting wine was used in the Altagr acia, and based on the outcome, we will likely continue to produce Altagr acia with the addition of some of our friends' excellent fruit.

TASTING NOTES

The aromas from this wine, made from a blend of Eisele Vineyard and premium Napa Valley fruit, literally jump out of the glass with notes of blackberry bramble, black plums, sour cherries and cherry cola nuanced by touches of bay leaf, chaparral, tobacco and tar. In the mouth, it coats the palate with dense, velvety texture and seductive, ripe flavors of red fruit, tar and coffee, followed by a long mineral finish that reveals its underlying grace. Notes winemaker Nigel Kinsman: *This wine shows beautiful structure and poise with its backbone of super fine-grained tannins. Exquisitely layered with mouth-coating tannins, vibrant acidity and a graceful, persistent finish, it is ripe, elegant and luscious.*

GRAPE SOURCE

66% Cabernet Sauvignon
10% Merlot
10% Petit Verdot
8% Cabernet Franc
6% Malbec
Napa Valley

PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol: 14.8%
Total Acid: 5.9 g/L
pH: 3.76
Production: 1200 cases
Release date: May 1, 2012

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