

2016 Knights Valley

Obsidian Estate Vineyard Syrah

The 2016 growing season was cooler on average than the three previous vintages, both nighttime and daytime temperatures were lower. Harvest started around the same time as 2015, which was early, but no significant heat spikes took place during ripening. This allowed for steady, even maturation of sugars and flavors. These two are not always in parity, but when they are in balance, we are afforded the opportunity to make a wine that has full flavor but is not overly alcoholic or too ripe. Although 2016 is the last of the several drought vintages, the wines show less opulence and are more reserved than their counterparts from 2013 and 2015.

Our harvest started August 23rd with Pinot Noir and finished September 26th with the picking of Mourvedre. Harvest of Obsidian Syrah landed right in the middle of the vintage. This is a very compact harvest window for Donelan. Almost thirteen tons of Syrah were harvested from our mountain estate. This made for one of the most beautiful harvests ever off of the site - a whopping 2.15 tons per acre! The three different blocks were harvested on the same date but kept separate through fermentation and into élevage. The wine was left undisturbed in barrels and only blended days before bottling. Spending almost two full years in barrel and four years in bottle have helped temper some of the wine's youthful exuberance.

Like past wines from our estate property, we are greeted with a cornucopia of aromas and flavors - cured meats, cracked pepper, sweet wood smoke and petrichor. The wine evolves in the glass over hours and at this stage in its development, it drinks even better on night two. The wine is gracious but dense on the palate and has a finish that lasts almost a minute. As with Obsidians of the past, this is a wine that drinks well in the interim and also rewards those with patience.

Cellar Notes:

Percentage New Oak

34%

Barrel Aging

22 months

Bottling Date

July 2018

Composition

100% Syrah

Alcohol

14.6%

Production

668 cases

