



VINEYARD SOURCES: 67% *McGinley Vineyard (Santa Ynez Valley)* and 33% *Watch Hill Vineyard (Los Alamos Valley)*. McGinley Vineyard is located in the Happy Canyon AVA of eastern Santa Ynez Valley, a traditional Syrah-growing zone that enjoys warm afternoon temperatures and cool, marine-moderated nights. Watch Hill Vineyard is a moderately cool site, located between Santa Maria and Buellton in the Los Alamos Valley of Santa Barbara County. The property was planted in 2002 to the newest and best Syrah clones and rootstocks.

VINTAGE: 2010 turned out to be a remarkable vintage, despite a sequence of extreme weather patterns. The growing season experienced a wet winter and exceptionally cool spring and summer. Early October brought several days of record-breaking heat, followed by a half inch of rain a week later. In hindsight, the heat spell compensated for the cool spring and summer, providing some much needed heat units, and the rain revitalized the vines so they could successfully continue the grape ripening process. Grapes from Watch Hill were harvested on October 26, while McGinley Vineyard fruit was picked on October 28.

WINEMAKING: This Syrah was crafted using an adaptation of Australian winemaking techniques. Focusing on extraction early in the fermentation process brings out the best expression of the grape and minimizes the risk of harsh tannins. The grapes were crushed into tanks and given a four day cold soak. During the most active days of fermentation, 'rack and returns' were performed for additional extraction. The two lots were pressed immediately at the conclusion of fermentation, and aged separately for 18 months in French oak barrels with 38% new oak in the mix. The lots were then blended and bottled on September 5, 2012.

TASTING NOTES: This wine is one of Ken's signature Syrahs in which he has expertly blended warmer climate and cooler climate Syrah for a beautifully integrated and balanced wine. Rich aromatics of ripe plum and black raspberry from the warmer McGinley Vineyard Syrah combine harmoniously with aromas of black currant, pepper and spice attributable to the cooler Watch Hill Syrah. On the palate, flavors of juicy plum and currant are enveloped in a rich, round mouthfeel with exquisitely balanced tannins. The plush texture and layers of complexity will only be enhanced with additional time in the cellar.

TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 6.1 g/l

pH: 3.56

Alcohol: 14.6%

Production: 118 cases