



## 2014 THOMPSON VINEYARD SYRAH

Appellation	Santa Barbara County
T.A.	6.0 g/L
pH	3.65
Alcohol	14.5%
Production	135 cases

### VINEYARD

*100% Thompson Vineyard, Los Alamos Valley*

Planted in the late 1980s, Thompson Vineyard has a well-deserved reputation for outstanding Syrah. The vineyard is planted along the slopes of Alisos Canyon in the Los Alamos Valley, a relatively cool appellation, located between Santa Maria and Buellton in Santa Barbara County. Vines are planted on their own rootstock to the highly regarded Estrella clone. Soils are low nutrient sandy loam, which helps restrict yields and promote vineyard expression.

### VINTAGE

The 2014 vintage made history as the earliest harvest on record in Santa Barbara County. It was also the shortest in duration, commencing on August 25 and concluding just 32 days later. The growing season began with a very mild winter and below average rainfall for the third year in a row. Budbreak occurred in early March followed by warm, even temperatures throughout the spring and summer. Yields were a touch above average in most vineyards, though slightly lower than 2013. Syrah grapes from Thompson Vineyard were harvested on September 26.

### WINEMAKING

This Syrah was crafted using an adaptation of Australian winemaking techniques, which focuses on extraction early in the fermentation process to bring out the best expression of the grape and minimize the risk of harsh tannins. The grapes were crushed into tanks and given a four-day cold soak. The Syrah was pressed shortly after the conclusion of fermentation, and aged for 22 months in French oak barrels with 30% new oak in the mix. The wine was bottled on August 9, 2016.

### TASTING NOTES

This Syrah offers beautiful, full-bodied aromatics and flavors. Intense aromas of black plum, boysenberry and black raspberry are complemented by hints of star anise, fresh ground pepper and herbes de Provence. The flavors are spicy and rich with accents of ripe plum, blackberry, blueberry and clove. Velvety, well balanced tannins span the wine from beginning to end, culminating in a remarkably long, opulent finish. Noted for its exceptional ageability, this Thompson Vineyard Syrah will continue to develop complexity and richness for a decade or more.