

2005 Mourvedre – “Coral Song”

LIVERMORE VALLEY

With the release of Coral Song, a Mourvedre from the Livermore Valley, the Collector's Circle takes another step toward its final designation as a Rhône and Italian varietal club. Our intention is to create six wines a year for our members that underscore the joy of drinking intensely flavored wines that emphasize ripe fruit and softer structure. These wines are especially good with food, will benefit by short to medium-term aging, and are delicious young.

Mourvedre is a grape that traces its origin back to Spain, thence to Provence in the Middle Ages. A victim of the phylloxera epidemic of the 1870s, it made its first appearance in California in Contra Costa County.

Our Livermore Valley Mourvedre (80% Mourvedre, 15% Syrah, 5% Grenache) has a wonderful balance of plum, strawberry and leather aromas, ripe fruit in the fore-palate, and significant tannin and astringency on the finish. Drinking well now, expect improvement over the next 12-36 months.

HISTORY

The Raboli Ranch was originally part of the same estate as our Home Ranch vineyard. Planted to more than a score of varietals in the 1870s it is now home to Zinfandel, Mourvedre, and other Rhône varietals. The Ghilmetti Vineyard – Block 9 was the source of this blend's Syrah, and the Marina Ranch in Livermore provided the Grenache.

VINTAGE

Harvest Date: September - October 2005

Fruit: 25 - 26.0° at harvest. Alcohol 14.4%.

Fermentation: Each varietal was vinified separately then blended. After destemming and crushing, fruit was fermented in 1/2 ton open-topped fermenters. The wine was pressed off after about 10 days

Aging: 9 barrels, 33% new French oak, the balance was 2003 and 2004 American oak barrels.

Barrel Time: 16 months

Release Date: May 5, 2007

VINEYARD

Location: Mourvedre: Raboli Ranch, Mines Rd, Livermore; Syrah: Ghilmetti Vineyard, Block 9, Reuss Rd., Livermore; Grenache: Marina Ranch, Marina Rd. Livermore

Soil: Predominantly sandy loam.

Training: Vertical Shoot Position (VSP) trellis.

GROWING SEASON

Rainfall: 18.85 inches.

Bloom: May

Weather: Very wet winter led to mild summer. Cool and stable temperatures contributed to a relatively long growing season with some lots coming into the winery 30 days later than the year before.

ARTWORK

Piper Cooke, who is six years old, prefers to work in abstracts, letting her mood inspire her art. Piper has been painting and drawing for her entire life. This piece, created in 2005, is tempura paints on construction paper. Glitter paint and a paper plate provide the final texture. Piper doesn't always know where her inspiration comes from, but lets the moment take her art and her vision where it wants to go. She is thrilled that her art has been selected to grace the label of one of Steven Kent's fine wines, as her father Michael has been on the tasting room staff for several years.