

Mourvèdre 2014



Technical Notes

100% Mourvedre

13.5% Alcohol by Volume

2200 Cases Produced

Food pairing

- Richly flavored stews
- Pork chops with fruit reduction
- Asian preparation of red meats (i.e., beef stir fry)
- Bittersweet chocolate desserts

The 2014 Tablas Creek Vineyard Mourvèdre is Tablas Creek's eleventh varietal bottling of Mourvèdre, and showcases the lush power of the 2014 vintage. We use most of our Mourvèdre in our Esprit de Tablas each year. However, we feel that the Mourvèdre grape, often pigeonholed as a blending varietal, can produce remarkable varietal wines, and when we have particularly characteristic lots of Mourvèdre, we try to reserve a limited quantity for a single-varietal bottling.

Our Mourvèdre grapes were grown on our 120-acre certified organic estate vineyard.

The 2014 vintage was our third consecutive drought year and saw our earliest-ever beginning to the growing season. The summer was warm but without serious heat spikes, and our coolest August in a decade slowed ripening at a critical period. When it warmed back up in September, the fruit tumbled in, and we finished in mid-October, about two weeks earlier than normal. The result was a vintage with excellent concentration balanced by good freshness, which should be vibrant and powerful young, but with the balance to age. Our Mourvèdre grapes were harvested between September 4th and October 6th.

The Mourvèdre grapes were destemmed and then fermented using native yeasts in a balance of small open-top and enclosed stainless steel tanks. After three weeks, they were pressed and moved to 1200-gallon foudres to complete their fermentation. The Mourvèdre lots were blended in May of 2015, aged for an additional year in neutral barrels and bottled in April 2016.

Tasting Notes

The 2014 Mourvèdre has lifted aromas of raspberry, new leather, bramble, baked plum, and cloves on the nose. The palate shows flavors of warm berry compote, rich texture, and spicy nutmeg. It's delicious now, but bites of tannin on the finish hint at even greater promise to come.