



2007 Fleur de Montagne

Philosophy

After planting Syrah in 1979 and finding that it followed a similar pattern to wines of the Rhone valley of France, we thought we might try expanding our Rhone style collection and looked at other well-known regions in the Rhone valley. Chateauneuf-du-Pape is a region in France that is allowed to grow 13 different varietals and blend them together to produce the wine. The primary varietals grown there are Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre and Cinsault. We followed that pattern and have produced a blend of our own using these four varietals.

VINEYARD SOURCE

The Cinsault is grown at the Reeves vineyard located on the western side and adjacent to Sierra Vista. Mrs. Reeves is John's sister so it is still in the family. We have put in two clones of Grenache here on the winery property. One originated in the vineyard of Chateau Rayas and the other in the vineyard of Chateau de Beaucastel both in Chateauneuf-du-Pape in the Southern Rhone Valley of France. Some of these have gone in this blend. The Syrah and Mourvedre we use in this blend is from the winery estate.

2007 Vintage

2007 started with below average rainfall in the winter followed by an early spring. This caused the vines to bud out early by several weeks. This was, of course, followed by an early bloom. One would have predicted a very early harvest with veraison starting the first of August. As it turned out we had almost no hot weather so veraison was only a couple weeks early followed by the first harvest date being the last week of August even for the Sauvignon Blanc grapes which come from Amador County, a much hotter region than El Dorado.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

Garnet in color, the aromas emerge from the glass as bright red fruits – cherry, raspberry and plum – and rose petal notes. In the mouth, the wine is smooth with flavors of cherry, blackberry, white pepper and clove. This wine can be paired with red meats as well as chicken and Turkey. It is a wonderfully versatile wine that complements roast pork as well as blackened salmon.

- John MacCready, Winemakers

Syrah	40%
Grenache	40%
Mourvedre	15%
Cinsault	5%
Time in Oak	18 months
Bottling Date	Aug 2008
Release Date	Feb 2009
Cases Produced	389