

# syrache

## 2005 syracuse santa barbara county



**harvest:** we picked syrah from the Byron vineyard, 1.1 tons of clone 174 and 1.1 tons of clone 470 on 10/8/2005. the day before we had our first pick of syrah from the Alisos vineyard and finished the pick on 11/3 (the last pick of the year from Alisos!) pulling in 1.7 tons of clone 7 and 1 ton of the “old block” clone. next we were back out at the Byron vineyard, for grenache this time, on 10/13 we picked 1.8 tons. right around that time we brought in 1 ton of grenache from the Alisos vineyard. 10/14 marked the pick at Bien Nacido vineyard with 1.8 tons of Syrah. there was a lot of running around but the end result is worth the time and energy!

**fermentation:** crushed and de-stemmed into open top 1 ½ ton fermenters. after three days of cold soaking we inoculated with a combination of three yeasts: BM45, VQ15, D254. throughout fermentation we administered twice daily punch downs. the bien nacido was 50% fermented in two new french oak barrels. Same thing for the Byron grenache where we used one hungarian barrel – great flavors!

**aging:** our syracuse is aged in 35% new oak barrels and 65% neutral oak barrels. both components of this blend are kept separate while aging and are blended together just before bottling (we blended the new and neutrals within the batches above – some of the batches were combined as we went through the second racking.) the new barrels used were mostly french but we also used 4 hybrid barrels with french heads and american staves and one hybrid with the opposite composition. finally we used one hungarian barrel.

**tasting notes:** our syracuse is full of bright fruits on the nose and palate especially cherries. this wine is all about the fruit, not the oak. we made a dish of leftover lamb, potatoes, peppers, heirloom tomatoes, fresh black and white pepper, basil, thyme and chipotle for a kick - the syracuse was dynamite along side.

**production:** 538 cases and 36 magnums produced – bottled march 29, 2007. release october 2007.