



ampelos cellars



2021 sta. rita hills - rose of syrah

first in the US to be certified sustainable, organic and biodynamic

harvest

- our goal with the rose is to harvest the grapes when they have fresh, bright aromas and flavors and to retain these during the fermentation. we therefore pick the syrah and grenache grapes 2-3 weeks earlier than we would have done if the goal was to make a red wine. all the grapes we used for this vintage are 100% estate fruit.
- the 2021 harvest started a later than normal but with relatively nice yields. on september 28 we picked the riesling and got plenty for the rose which also a little extra for a small bottling of 100% riesling! It is always a painful thing to pick from these narrow rows on steep slopes...but great flavors!
- on october 21 we picked the syrah from block 7 as well as the grenache from block 3

wine making style

- our rose wine making style is to keep the fresh and balanced flavors of the syrah grapes alive and allow for the natural aromas and flavors to come forward.
- a third of each of the syrah as well as the grenache batches were de-stemmed, crushed and cold soaked for 2 days to extract the beautiful glowing pink color and contribute with a deep red-wine alike mouth feel with light tannins and structure. the other two thirds were gently pressed within hours of harvest. the small riesling batch was also pressed – and now all the components were in stainless barrels and tanks!
- from 2011 we have not been using commercial yeast for fermentation – but rather let mother natures wild yeast do the job. as the different components arrived we watched them start fermenting and enjoyed the flavors develop during a long, cold and slow fermentation – average fermentation time at 50F was 30 days
- none of the batches were in contact with oak and they did not go through the second (malolactic) fermentation. before bottling we blended the components, fined and filtered
- to reduce our energy use we have replaced the electricity hungry, traditional cold stabilization with a product based on manoproteins – the results are amazing and we feel even more “green” by doing so

character

- color is bright pink/salmon – looks like it will glow in the dark
- nose are hints of fresh strawberries, with watermelon, pomegranate, jolly rancher and pink lady apples
- minerality is crisp and slate-like
- palate of white lilies, bright red fruit, candy necklace and light herbs – nice tropical lift from the riesling
- finish is long & filled with the aforementioned fruits. nose of straw- and raspberries, with watermelon and pomegranate

appellation	sta rita hills 100% estate
varietals	75% syrah, 19% grenache and 6% riesling
vineyard sources	ampelos vineyard -- block 3, 7 and 14
alcohol	14.0%
pH/Acid	3.45/5.9g at bottling