

VILLA CREEK

High Road, 2012

BLEND

50% Syrah, 25% Grenache,
25% Mourvèdre

HARVEST

October 1 - November 11, 2012

BOTTLED

June 15th, 2014

VINEYARDS farming/soil

James Berry: organic, not certified
/thin layer of topsoil over limestone seabed



VINTAGE

2012 was a stellar growing year for Paso Robles. Average winter rainfall was adequate to take the vines happily through harvest. Temperatures were ideal with the cool wet winter followed by a warm spring that encouraged a generous bud break and fruit set. The summer sunshine and warmth led to normal harvest dates. All in all, it was very stress free growing year for both the grapes and the growers.

VINIFICATION

After a careful hand cluster sort, 50% of the grapes were fermented whole cluster. The remainder was then berry sorted. Fermentation followed normal Villa Creek protocol: daily pigeage during a 4 day cold soak, followed by 100% native yeast fermentation with gentle pump-overs when needed. The grapes were co-fermented in two separate lots. 25% of the wine was aged in new French oak. The remainder of the wine was aged in stainless steel tanks.

TASTING NOTES

2012 High Road with its energetic nose shows cassis, shiso, coal and smoked meats. The palate is rich yet focused with notes of boysenberry, candied orange peel, Szechuan pepper and wet stones. If you simply can't wait to crack one, give it a good decant. We suggest you save more than a few bottles for the cellar as the sweet spot is a few years off and it's going to be remarkable! Drink 2015-2025

REVIEWS

"The 2012 High Road James Berry is a big, powerful red. Dark plum and flowers meld together as this intense, richly structured wine shows off its considerable personality. The 2012 boasts serious density and volume..."

93 points - Antonio Galloni - Vinous Media

"The 2012 High Road James Berry Vineyard has a seamless, pure and elegant character to go with rock-solid ripeness. Showing plum, cassis, violet, licorice and crushed rock-like nuances on the nose, it is full-bodied, fresh and supple, yet has a serious spine of tannin that comes through on the finish. I love the purity here, but it needs another year or two in the cellar, and will have just under a decade of longevity."

94 points - Jeb Dunnuck - The Wine Advocate