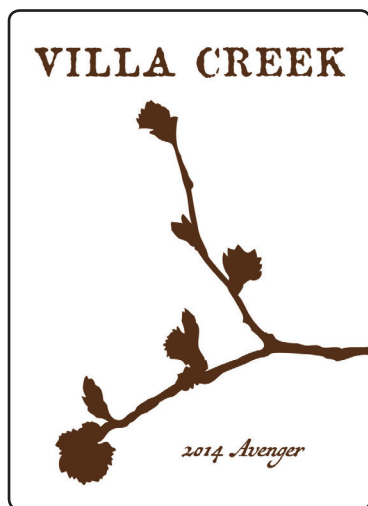


VILLA CREEK



Avenger, 2014

BLEND 80% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, 10% Grenache

HARVEST September 17, October 10 and November 3 2014

BOTTLED April 23, 2016

VINEYARDS Luna Matta: certified organic/clay loam over
farming/soil lime stone
G2: sustainable/Monterey shale, calcareous

THE 2014 VINTAGE

After a very cold, very dry winter, we were doused with just enough rain in March, to get the cover crop growing in the vineyard only to be quickly knocked down to prepare for a hot dry summer. Summer started early with consistently high temperatures that persisted through harvest. The last grapes were picked early October, almost a month earlier than normal. Bright acidity and concentration will be the hallmarks of this vintage. Coming from James Berry Vineyard, the 2014 High Road James Berry Vineyard is an even split of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre that was fermented with 80% whole clusters and aged in a combination of new and neutral oak. Blackberries, pepper, licorice and spring flower nuances all flow from this medium to full-bodied, elegant, grippy and energetic red. While it's not a heavy weight, it shines for its purity and elegance.

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: anaerobic (dry ice) cold soak, followed by 100% native yeast fermentation with daily delestage and foot treading along with gentle pump-overs when needed. The wine was aged in a combination of French and Hungarian puncheons, 25% new.

TASTING NOTES

Avenger is always our Syrah focused blend that can be relied upon to provide that rich, jammy red wine experience. This year's Avenger brings Syrah from a new vineyard into the mix. We were turned on to G2 Vineyard by our friend Justin Smith of Saxum. G2 sits a mile southeast of James Berry Vineyard and is also in the Willow Creek District of west Paso Robles. The new owners have re-purposed this property from a larger production vineyard to a low yield farm of high quality Rhone varietals. Seductive aromatics of grilled jamón wrapped plums are enhanced by black berry and espresso notes. A super sexy palate reveals boysenberry pie, chambrorde, roasted meats, and spice all framed by gorgeous supple tannins. This wine is ready to rumble though will cellar with the best of them. Drink 2016-2025

REVIEW

"Bright purple. Powerful mineral- and spice-accented black and blue fruit aromas show impressive clarity and pick up sexy floral and incense nuances as the wine opens up. Sweet, sappy and incisive, offering palate-coating boysenberry and cherry compote flavors and hints of succulent herbs and candied flowers.

Impressively rich yet vibrant, finishing on a juicy blue fruit note with sneaky tannins and superb persistence."