

VILLA CREEK

Willow Creek Cuvée, 2014



BLEND 70% Grenache
15% Mourvèdre
10% Syrah
5% Carignan

HARVEST October 8, 2014

BOTTLED February 19th 2016

VINEYARDS Luna Matta
farming/soil certified organic/clay loam over lime stone
James Berry
organic, not certified/thin layer of topsoil over limestone seabed
Denner
sustainable/thin layer of topsoil over limestone seabed

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.

VINIFICATION

After a careful sort, 50% of the clusters were destemmed and berries were then hand sorted. The grapes were fermented separately following a protocol of daily pigeage during an initial cold soak, then protocol moved to daily delastage and pump overs. 50% of the final blend was aged in new French puncheons and the remainder in second fill barriques.

TASTING NOTES

Beautiful, complex, and round with an ever-so-slight edge, if there is a crowd pleaser in the line-up, it's Willow Creek Cuvée. The Grenache base is a beautiful foundation of red fruits and spice. The savory aspects of Mourvèdre and the dark black fruits of Syrah add breadth and richness making it the hit of the party. Rousing aromas of smoked ham hock, plums, dried flowers, and sandalwood brings you to the edge of your seat. The palate amuses with bold flavors of black raspberry, licorice, spice and maple syrup. It is a wine you will like now but love later...! Drink 2016-2026

REVIEW

I loved the 2014 Willow Creek Cuvee (no surprise, it's a year in, year out favorite), and this vibrant purple colored beauty is made from 70% Grenache, 20% Mourvedre and 10% Syrah. It was fermented with 50% whole clusters and raised in new French oak puncheons and barrique. This voluptuous, sexy wine has fine tannin, a rich, layered texture and medium to full-bodied aromas and flavors of blackberries, smoked herbs, licorice and wild flowers. It's a hedonistic wine that delivers on the pleasure scale. 93 pts. Jeb Dunnuck, The Wine Advocate