

VILLA CREEK



Avenger, 2015

BLEND 70% Syrah, 10% Petite Syrah, %10 Grenache,
%10 Mourvèdre

BOTTLED February 2017

VINEYARDS Luna Matta: certified organic/clay loam over
farming/soil lime stone
G2: sustainable/Monterey shale, calcareous
James Berry: organic, not certified/thin layer
of topsoil over limestone seabed

THE 2015 VINTAGE

Nearly 5 inches of rain in a warm December 2014 led to a cooler spring. A consistent pattern of rain threats through April sadly did not pan out. Cloud cover and cool temperatures helped preserve the little bit of rain we received earlier in the season. These drought conditions combined with damaging spring frost and a cool windy spring led to much lower yields throughout the state. These same conditions however produced some intense and developed wines. The spectacular though limited 2015 vintage will be in high demand.

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 the red blend that launched Villa Creek Cellars in 2001. Syrah from G2 Vineyard is the backbone of this wine. G2 is a stone's throw from James Berry Vineyard in the Willow Creek district of the west hills of Paso Robles. The vines are deeply rooted in lime stone which give richness and complexity without being over the top. Our block at G2 sits on a steep windswept west facing slope that benefits from ocean fog and cooler day time temperatures. These conditions lend breadth on the palate and layers of flavor to the wines. Denner and Luna Matta Mourvèdre add a bass note of dark fruit. A touch of Rolph dry farmed Petite Syrah adds volume. This wine is all about hedonistic pleasure! Drink 2017-2027.

REVIEW

"Youthful purple. A complex, highly perfumed bouquet evokes ripe black and blue fruits, cola, potpourri and incense, and an exotic Moroccan spice quality builds in the glass. Shows impressive depth as well as energy on the palate, offering densely packed blueberry, bitter cherry and candied violet flavors that become sweeter and livelier with air. Finishes sappy, youthfully tannic and extremely long, leaving behind suave mineral and lavender pastille notes."

95 pts - Josh Reynolds