

VILLA CREEK



High Road, 2015

BLEND 60% Syrah
20% Mourvèdre
20% Grenache

BOTTLED February 2017

VINEYARDS James Berry
farming/soil 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 sort the grapes were placed in tank. 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 grapes were co-fermented with 50% whole clusters. 35% of the wine was aged in new French puncheons.

TASTING NOTES

High Road is always a blend of our best barrels off James Berry Vineyard, a benchmark property located in Paso Robles' most esteemed micro-climate. The limestone soils and multiple aspects of our blocks at JBV offer the perfect conditions for producing wines of length and balance. This year's High Road is classically proportioned. The core of pure fruit is enveloped by a sublime fineness of texture. This very well could be the best High Road to date. Drink 2017-2027.

REVIEWS

Dark purple. A complex, highly perfumed bouquet displays aromas of ripe black and blue fruits, vanilla, potpourri and cracked pepper, and an exotic Indian spice nuance emerges with air.

Impressively concentrated yet energetic on the palate, offering appealingly sweet boysenberry, blackberry and candied violet flavors sharpened by a suggestion of cracked pepper.

Spreads out impressively on a wonderfully long, supple finish that shows just a hint of velvety tannins.

94 pts - Josh Reynolds