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S Y R A H
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GROWN, PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY UNTI VINEYARDS
HEALDSBURG CALIFORNIA ALCOHOL 14.2% BY VOLUME

Vineyard: The grapes came from our eleven-year-old six-acre block located on the east Dry Creek Bench where chalky, rocky soil provides excellent drainage. The vines are a Durell-clone Syrah (small, olive-like berries) field grafted onto 5C rootstock. Vines are cane pruned and vertical trellised for greater sun exposure.

Vintage/Harvest: 1999 was an excellent vintage in Dry Creek. A lower than normal crop yield, long cool growing season and warm dry harvest produced particularly bright blackberry fruit with ripe tannins. We hand-harvested our Syrah into half-ton bins October 1st and 2nd at an average sugar of 25 brix. We've found that when the grape skins are puckered and soft and the seeds are brown, our Syrah is physiologically ripe and will produce a full-flavored wine without astringency or bitterness.

Vinification/Oak Aging: The Syrah was destemmed and crushed into closed top stainless steel tanks. After a two-day cold soak the must was inoculated with Syrah yeast. The Syrah was pumped over through a sump and screen (to aerate the wine) twice daily during a nine-day fermentation. The wine was then pressed at dryness and pumped into barrels where it completed malolactic fermentation. We then aged the wine for just over thirteen months exclusively in French oak barrels and puncheons, 30% new. This 100% Syrah was bottled unfined and unfiltered.

Style/Description: The '99 Syrah is our most concentrated and structured wine to date. The wine has the best characteristics of the previous two vintages—the ripe fruit and power of the 1997 and the spicy, gamey flavors of the 1998. Though very full-bodied, the '99 has a nice, round mouthfeel and a polished finish. We recommend drinking it within the next 3 to 7 years.

Harvested: 10/1/99
Total acidity: 0.62g/100ml
pH: 3.72
Oak Aging: 13 months, French barrels and puncheons, 30% new

Blend: 100% Syrah
Alcohol: 14.2%
Bottled: 11/10/00 Unfined, unfiltered
Cases produced: 1320