

UNTI

D R Y C R E E K V A L L E Y

S Y R A H

B E N C H L A N D

2 0 1 1

GROWN, PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY UNTI VINEYARDS
HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA ALCOHOL 13.9% BY VOLUME

H A R V E S T E D :

SEPT 23 - SEPT 25, 2011

B L E N D :

1 0 0 % S Y R A H

ACIDITY: 0.56g/100ml

pH: 3.75

ALCOHOL: 13.9%

A G I N G :

14 MONTHS FRENCH

O A K , 4 0 % N E W

B O T T L E D :

DEC 10, 2012

C A S E S P R O D U C E D :

350

W W W . U N T I V I N E Y A R D S . C O M

VARIETAL & VINEYARD: This Syrah comes from the western section of our Benchland Syrah vineyard. The vines on this little knoll are less vigorous than other locations due to its well draining soil. Consequently, these vines produce smaller grapes with more concentrated flavors and tannins than the balance of the Syrah vineyard.

VINTAGE/HARVEST: 2011 was a very cool vintage. From June through August our daytime high temperatures exceeded 90 degrees only seven days—about one third the number of a normal summer here. A very low-crop set enabled us to harvest our Benchland Syrah the third week of September, which was prior to the rain October 1st. We harvested this section of Syrah at 23 brix, slightly lower than in previous years. As with most of our wines in 2011, this Benchland Syrah has a slightly higher than normal level of acidity.

VINIFICATION: We fermented our Benchland Syrah in several small 1-to-3 ton tanks and wooden vats. A small portion of this wine was fermented as whole clusters for enhanced aromatics. After a 5-day cold soak, fermentation began with indigenous yeast. The small tank size allows us to regulate extraction between punching-down and pumping-over. Once in barrel, we routinely stirred lees for added texture and complexity. We aged this wine in 40% new French Oak for 13 months. It is 100% Syrah.

STYLE/DESCRIPTION: Similar to our 2010 Benchland, this 2011 really shows an elegant side of this vineyard designate wine. Cool growing seasons such as 2011 result in a Syrah with more floral aromas, savory flavors, lower alcohol and brighter acidity—many of the characteristics we appreciate in Northern Rhône wines. This 2011 Benchland is not as tannic as some previous vintages, but it still has some pop in its bat. I recommend drinking within the next 2 to 4 years, and enjoying this pretty version of the Bench.

W W W . U N T I V I N E Y A R D S . C O M