

UNTI

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

S Y R A H

2 0 1 1

GROWN, PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY UNTI VINEYARDS
HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA ALCOHOL 13.7% BY VOLUME

H A R V E S T E D :

OCT 11 - OCT 30, 2011

B L E N D :

1 0 0 % S Y R A H

ACIDITY: 0.53g/100ml

pH: 3.80

ALCOHOL: 13.7%

A G I N G :

13 MONTHS FRENCH

O A K , 3 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 :

575

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

VARIETAL & VINEYARD:

This 2011 Syrah "Normale" comes from our estate vineyards located on the winery property. Here, we have several blocks of Syrah planted to Northern Rhône clones 174, 877, 383, and 470, on low-vigor rootstock. 65% of this wine comes from our Creekside Syrah block, which was planted in 1998. We have been increasingly impressed with the fruit complexity from this section.

VINTAGE:

2011 was a very cool vintage. A moderately cool spring led to a summer of well-below normal temperatures, thus we harvested our winery Syrah about 2 weeks behind normal schedule, beginning October 11th. Cool growing seasons such as 2011 result in a Syrah with more savory aromas and flavors, and lower alcohol levels. You'll note the enhanced pepper, olive and floral aromas—many of the characteristics we appreciate in Northern Rhône Syrah.

WINEMAKING:

Since 2005 we have implemented whole cluster fermentation to our winery property Syrah. Our intention in bypassing the destemmer/crusher is to enhance stem aroma and structure in small open top tanks. Only 15% of this 2011 Syrah was whole-cluster fermented, lower than most years. We were judicious about not including stems, in hopes of avoiding green tannins, which are often more prominent in cooler vintages. After a 5-day cold soak, fermentation begins with indigenous yeast. We then punch-down or pump juice over the cap twice daily. Once dry, the pomace is basket-pressed, blended with free-run wine and transferred into barrels. Our 2011 Syrah is aged in only French Oak, 30% new, for 13 months.

STYLE/DESCRIPTION:

This medium to full-bodied wine is a personal favorite because it strikes a great balance between Old and New World Syrah. The cool 2011 season resulted in a complex set of spicy and floral aromas, followed by sweet blueberry and blackberry flavors. This well-balanced wine will make you think it was grown in a cooler climate than the Dry Creek Valley, which we think is, well, cool. This euro-style (13.7% alcohol) Syrah is already drinking nicely and should continue to do so for 3 to 5 years.