

TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY

BARDEN

Syrah

STA. RITA HILLS

No. 3198 of 3198



BARDEN



Sta. Rita Hills

2020 Syrah

BARDEN focuses exclusively on the terroir of the Sta. Rita Hills sourcing fruit from top vineyards in the appellation, showcasing the region's classic typicity for Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Syrah. With its diverse, marine-based soils and refrigerated-sunlight climate, the Sta. Rita Hills provides a perfect place for Doug "Barden" Margerum to leverage his years of food and wine experience to make limited amounts of world-class, cuisine-friendly and age-worthy wines. The BARDEN name's English meaning is "Lives near the boar's den..." Thus the image of a wild boar, which is pervasive in our area's vineyards.

Vineyard Region: Sta. Rita Hills -84% Donnachadh, 13% John Sebastiano, 3% Zotovich - a seven-barrel blend.

Vintage Conditions: Santa Barbara County had a cool spring and mild summer temperatures that extended the growing season. Harvest began in the last half of August and the weather that followed had the usual summer heat waves. It was a very quick and even harvest with yields that were average to below average helping to produce pronounced flavors and aromatics. Most importantly for us is that we did not have the fires that plagued the vineyards to the north. We are very happy with the quality of the wine and the "numbers" (pH, TA, Alc.) have been right on resulting in very balanced wines.

Winemaking: Fermented in 400 liter open top insulated fermenters in our 55 F winery, 75% Whole Cluster fermented, 7-day cold soak, 10 days fermentation, pressed and barreled

Maturation: 60% New François Frères barriques, MLF in barrel and racked once, 18 months in Barrel

Wine Analysis: Alcohol: 12.8%, pH: 3.7 and TA: 6.3

Production in Cases: 270 cases produced

Reviews: 2019 Vintage, *Vinous* 95 Points, *Wine Enthusiast* 95 Points

Winemaker Comments

Color: Dark purple and blue-black hues

Aroma: Black Brambleberry, Mediterranean spice of black olives, thyme and violets, mix with pepper spice and earthy elements of leather and grilled meats.

Palate: Concentrated and expansive in the mouth, dark fruit and richly structured. Persistent tannins, good acidity and loads of deep fruit bode well for long aging.

Peak Drinking: Now and up to 10-15 plus years.

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