

BIG BASIN

— VINEYARDS —

2012 Grizzly

Santa Cruz Mountains - Estate



- 65% Grenache & 35% Syrah,
- Harvested: October 21 & 29th (Full Moon), 2012
- Winemaking: whole berry, cold soak, hand punch downs, indigenous yeast
- Barrel aged 22 months in neutral French oak , 225L and 300L barrels
- Bottled unfinned and unfiltered August 2014
- Alcohol 14.6%
- 185 cases produced

Winemaker Notes:

In 2012 Grizzly is back to being 100% Estate grown fruit! Low Grenache yields during 2009 - 2011 forced our hand to include fruit from the Coastview and Antle Vineyards in the Gabilan Mountains to make a reasonable quantity of the Grizzly. 2012 was an optimal growing season and as vines are now well enough established, they produced what was the most abundant Grenache yield we had experienced to date. This gave us the opportunity to (finally) select only Estate barrels to craft Grizzly. Also in 2012, our Estate Vineyard become CCOF Certified Organic.

The expression which excites us the most and what we believe our Estate Vineyard can best achieve is the more feminine qualities of spicy red fruits, crushed flowers and a long increasingly intense, refined finish. For the reasons outlined above, you can better understand the struggle to accomplish our goal. Our 2012 Grizzly is an example of what we hope to achieve with a Grenache-based wine - in this case, one with a good amount of Syrah (35%) that was co-fermented with the Grenache. The aromatics are intense, perfumed and spicy. The palate has loads of spicy red fruits, minerality and crushed white flowers. The finish has exceptionally fine, building tannins that will give this wine a very long cellar life.

Antonio Galloni - Vinous - 90 Points

"The 2012 Grizzly is pliant, open and accessible, with plenty of sweet cherry, savory herbs, leather, cedar, tobacco, kirsch and white pepper notes. Although quite ripe and forward in style, the 2012 also retains a good level of freshness that balances some of the more overt elements."

Jeb Dunnock - The Wine Advocate - 90 Points

"The 2012 Grizzly offers a tight, fresh bouquet of Bing cherry, raspberry, watermelon, flowers and peppery herbs. This gives way to medium-bodied, fresh, lively wine that has bright acidity and a clean, classy finish. There's a suppleness to the texture that keeps it thoroughly enjoyable, and I suspect acid lovers will like this even more than me."