

2019 PLUMPJACK SYRAH, NAPA VALLEY



VARIETALS
100% Syrah



ALCOHOL
15.2%



AGING
16 months



PRODUCTION
1,084 cases



97 POINTS
Vinous



PLUMPJACK

WINERY

WINEMAKER
Aaron Miller

AVA
Napa Valley

VINTAGE

Near record rainfall. Late budbreak. Late bloom. Late veraison. Late ripening. For the second vintage in a row, the key was patience. The vines emerged from dormancy and reached every milestone later than usual. As in 2018, it seemed the grapes would never ripen. So, we waited. Then, in early October, everything began to change. The grapes' flavors grew deeper and richer, the skins grew thinner, and the color was more easily extracted from the skins. Our patience paid off and the resulting wines are just stunning.

VINEYARD

Our Syrah grapes are grown in Los Carneros, the southernmost AVA of Napa Valley, just north of the San Pablo Bay at the northern lobe of the San Francisco Bay. These vineyards offer dramatically cooler weather than the more northern regions of Napa Valley due to the cooling effect of the San Pablo Bay, making for amazing growing conditions for varieties such as Syrah, Merlot, and Chardonnay.

FERMENTATION & AGING

Of the Syrah grapes, 52% were destemmed and fermented in stainless steel tanks and 23% in concrete tanks. These grapes were cold soaked for 4 days, fermented at a maximum temperature of 92°F, then pressed off skins after 8-10 days. The remaining 25% were whole-cluster fermented in open-top tanks and barrels, fermented at a maximum temperature of 87°F, then pressed off skins after 6-9 days. The wine was then transferred to French Oak Burgundy barrels and underwent malolactic fermentation. The wine was kept on heavy lees for several months and stirred once a month. The coopers used include Francois Freres, Meyrieux, and Sirugue—73% were new barrels. The wine was aged in these barrels for 16 months prior to bottling.

IMPRESSIONS

The 2019 PlumpJack Syrah is truly a wine of place. The cooler climate of Los Carneros helps the grapes to develop full ripe character while retaining freshness and incredible spice. The nose of opens with a range of fresh berries – blackberry, blueberry, boysenberry, and cranberry. Just behind the fruit are beautiful warming spices—cardamom, cinnamon, and nutmeg—along with black and white peppercorn, layered with earthy notes of damp soil, crushed granite, and cured tobacco. The palate is full-bodied with a round, silky texture that is beautifully framed by firm yet supple tannin, resulting in a beautiful and complex wine.