



SYRAH
CHICO'S HILL • RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
2021



2020 VINTAGE

95 points – Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

2019 VINTAGE

95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous

WINEMAKING DETAILS

Fermentation: 100% neutral French Oak;
100% Malolactic; on the lees with daily
battonage

Racked and Returned to Barrel 4 times

Oak: 50% new French Oak,
50% neutral French Oak, 15 months

Case Production: 31

VINEYARD DETAILS

Soil Type: Franciscan & Clay Loam

Rootstock: 420

Clones: 877

WINEMAKER

Courtney Robinett Wagoner

GROWING YEAR

2021 was the driest year on record since they started keeping records 127 years ago. It was also the third year of drought conditions for Sonoma County.

Contrary to these conditions, the summer was relatively cool and started two weeks later than the previous year. The drought conditions did bring ripeness to each of our varieties at just about the same time. By the end of the first week, we had 40% of the total tonnage in the winery. This included Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Zinfandel from both Fort Ross-Seaview and Russian River Valley. Despite being a very compact harvest, small clusters and berry size have yielded exceptional quality which makes 2021 a standout vintage.

VINEYARD CHARACTER

Chico's Hill is a one-acre vineyard on an easterly-facing slope. It has a great soil profile which is predominantly fractured rock. Fractured rock makes for great growing conditions because the rock warms the earth by the early morning sun, stimulating vine growth, in addition, rainwater penetrates the soil depth easily and drains off. The landscape is long and narrow with a 45-degree slope and was where Julianna Martinelli's horse, Chico, was stabled when she was a child. The rows are oriented in a north-south direction to equalize sunlight exposure on both sides of the canopy morning and afternoon. For vine training we installed a vertical trellis system with fruit wire sitting 22 inches above ground level, encouraging consistent ripening of the grape clusters. The vineyard consists solely of clone 877.

TASTING NOTES

The nose fills you with bursts of rhubarb, fresh ground coffee, and hints of sweet cream. Upon entry, the distinct palate has polished tannins with flavors of red plum and pomegranate, with black currants present in the impeccable finish.