

LIBERTY SCHOOL

CUVÉE 2008

The Central Coast of California is an ideal growing region for making world-class wines and Paso Robles continues to gain notoriety for its stellar blended wines. The diversity of the region is its strength and Liberty School Cuvée is an impressive example. A combination of Syrah, Petite Sirah, Grenache, Mourvèdre and Viognier, this cuvee harmoniously melds the best characteristics of each varietal to make a complex and unique red blend.

HARVEST NOTES

The 2008 growing season did not begin with ideal weather, but managed in the end to produce an outstanding wine. Low amounts of precipitation and cool dry winds marked the beginning of the year, yet the warm summer heat matured the fruit beautifully. Progressive fruit-thinning practices in our vineyards lowered the eventual tonnage. An early frost prior to harvest further reduced some vineyard yields, but the final outcome of the 2008 harvest was a strong and determined crop.

WINEMAKING NOTES

Upon harvest, the grapes were de-stemmed, crushed and placed in stainless steel tanks to cold soak. This allows extra time for the juice to interact with the grape skins prior to fermentation and, hence, greater extraction of tannins. The wine is pumped-over, twice daily during fermentation. The wine was aged for 14 months in primarily neutral French oak barrels. The initial blend was assembled after the first racking. The final blend rested in stainless steel tank for three months prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES

The 2008 Liberty School Cuvée displays bright red fruit flavors on the nose. With accents of smoke and pepper, the blend shows fine grain tannins which are reminiscent of wines from the southern Rhône Valley. Full flavors of plum, strawberry and black pepper show in the entry and mid-palate, with a slight hint of anise. Elements of spice and earthiness are apparent in the mid-palate and finish. A small amount of Viognier adds floral aromatics and color stabilization. Overall, the wine displays well-integrated, soft tannins and boasts excellent structure and minerality.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

Varietal: Syrah, Petite Sirah, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Viognier
Appellation: Central Coast

The home of delicious wines that are easy to enjoy.®

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