

2011 CRYPTIC RED BLEND



⊗ **al·che·my:** *an ancient science, described as the process of changing base elements into noble elements*

We view Cryptic wines as modern day alchemy: our winemakers blend standard red grape varietals into something special, changing the ordinary into the extraordinary. For the 2011 vintage, our alchemic blend is comprised primarily of Zinfandel, followed by Petite Sirah, Merlot, and Barbera with small amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon, which adds structure.

Cryptic is sourced from over 30 vineyards across several distinctive growing areas. The Zinfandel components were sourced mainly from Paso Robles in the Central Coast and Mendocino in the North Coast, the Petite Sirah was drawn primarily from Clarksburg in the Sacramento Valley, and the Barbera, Cabernet and Merlot grapes were drawn from the broader California appellation, including the Lodi area. Each of these areas is known for soils, climate and growing conditions that produce bold, flavorful red wine grapes.

In 2011, the cooler than normal weather extended the growing season. Heavy rains in October threatened vineyards and caused some growers to harvest early, but a sunny latter half of October allowed later ripening grapes to reach full maturity. The overall harvest was lighter and later than normal, with fully developed flavors at lower sugar levels. Wines from 2011 tend to display firm structure and crisp acidity.

☾ WINEMAKING

Our winemaking team, led by Antonio Treviño, excels in the subtlety of winemaking and the art of blending that comes with years of experience. Before harvest even begins, the team identifies the A+ vineyard lots for Cryptic and keeps a watchful eye on the grapes as they ripen. When the grapes are fully developed, winemaking makes the call to pick.

Once the grapes arrive at the winery, each lot was vinified and aged separately. Our winemakers used both stainless steel and oak casks for fermentation and the wine was aged in small oak barrels for 14 months to add levels of complexity to the final blend.

☼ SENSORY

The 2011 Cryptic is elegant and seductive, with red raspberry, cherry and blueberry flavors, notes of roasted coffee bean, hints of vanilla and a touch of mocha on the finish. Our wine's subtle toasty notes and ripe fruit flavors will be enhanced when paired with roasted or grilled meats, hearty pasta dishes, or wood-fire pizza.

✧ TECHNICAL INFORMATION

APPELLATION California
VARIETAL COMPOSITION 51% Zinfandel
18% Petite Sirah
13% Merlot
12% Barbera
6% Cabernet Sauvignon

ACID .54 g/100ml
pH 3.81
ALCOHOL 14%

AGING 14 months in French, Hungarian & American oak barrels

