

# 2012 CRYPTIC RED BLEND



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

**W**e 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 2012 vintage, our alchemic blend is comprised primarily of Zinfandel, followed by Petite Sirah and Cabernet Sauvignon with small amounts of Barbera and Merlot to add red fruit character and a lush mouthfeel.

Every vineyard has its own character and with this understanding, Cryptic is shaped by 25+ vineyards located across several distinctive growing regions throughout California. Our winemakers cherry pick their favorite blocks: Zin from old vine vineyards in Lodi and Amador County, Petite Sirah from Dry Creek Valley and Cabernet Sauvignon from Paso Robles. Each varietal and each vineyard is transformed under the guiding hand of our winemakers and their vineyard partners.

The 2012 vintage was a winemaker's dream come true and a welcome sight after a tricky 2011 harvest. Winemakers were blessed with a crop of outstanding quality. The harvest period was warm and dry, extending hang time for all growing regions throughout California. The lack of extreme heat allowed for even ripening and our winemaking team was able to pick at optimal sugar levels and flavor.

## ☾ 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

Cryptic features a spicy frame wrapped by heady aromas and flavors of blackberry jam, fresh red plum, black licorice and mocha. Rich and juicy, with plush tannins, the finish keeps on giving long after the last sip. Cryptic's subtle toasty notes and ripe fruit flavors pair well with roasted or grilled meats, hearty pasta dishes or wood-fired pizza.

## ✧ TECHNICAL INFORMATION

**APPELLATION** California  
**VARIETAL COMPOSITION** 54% Zinfandel  
22% Petite Sirah  
16% Cabernet Sauvignon  
6% Barbera  
2% Merlot

**ACID** .57 g/100ml  
**pH** 3.75  
**ALCOHOL** 14%

**AGING** 14 months in French, Hungarian & American oak barrels

