



2018 SYRAH

JOHN SEBASTIANO STA. RITA HILLS

This Syrah comes from the cool, steep, wind-blasted slopes at John Sebastiano Vineyard. The site provides loads of cool-climate Syrah intrigue in any year—it's always amply spicy, fragrant and savory—but we're particularly excited about this 2018 bottling. The vintage was cool and breezy throughout veraison; ultimately we picked this Syrah at 22 brix in the first days of November. That long hang time (longest since 2011) provides loads of intensity in the fruit.

You find it's deceptively boisterous and berry scented initially (in this first year after bottling), and after an hour or so being open you see the wine scaffold and build into this stratified aroma bomb. The perfume here reminds us of our favorite Cote Roties, with ethereal scents of flowers, woodsiness, incense and cacao. The palate is suave and glossy with peppery dark stone fruits lifted by mouth-watering raspberry. Complex flavors of savory herbs, tobacco and chai spice give a stirring kind of deliciousness.

One of the great things about JSV Syrah is that it's always approachable relatively young. This year is supple and graceful as any. But this wine is a baby still, so you'll just want to give it some air (or some cellaring) to appreciate the whole spectacle.

BLEND 100% Syrah

VINEYARDS John Sebastiano Vineyard

AVA Sta. Rita Hills

ALCOHOL 13.0%

VINIFICATION pumped over fermentation with 8% whole clusters

BARREL AGING 18 months in French oak, 17% new

TOTAL PRODUCTION 285 Cases

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THE
OJAI
VINEYARD