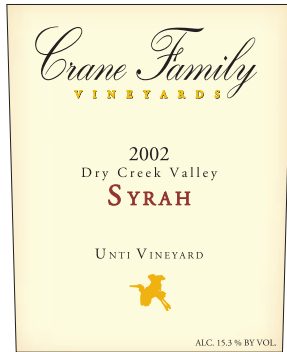


Crane Family

VINEYARDS



Welcome to the Family

We invite you to enjoy a new experience with our extended family of wine lovers. This year, because we have exhausted our supply of Cabernets and Merlots, we reached out to supplement our own estate wines. Made for us by our winemaker son-in-law, Ed McKeown, this wine is the rare exception worthy of labeling with the Crane Family Vineyards brand name. Though a departure from our tradition of making wines only from the grapes we produce, Fran and I are proud to present you with an exciting addition to our family of wines.

TECHNICAL DATA

Harvest Date:
September 24, 2002

Average Sugar at Harvest:
25.6°

Average pH at Bottling:
3.8 pH

Average Total Acid at bottling:
.057

Fermentation Method:
Cold Soak, Traditional Red Yeasts,
Extended Maceration

Alcohol by Volume:
15.3%

Residual Sugar:
Dry

Cases Produced:
250

2002 Dry Creek Valley SYRAH Unti Vineyard, Sonoma

THE VINEYARD

The Unti Vineyard, located in the Southwestern Dry Creek Valley, has been farmed by the Unti family for decades, and is famous for the production of intensely flavored wine grapes. A gradually descending terrain ending at a tree-lined creek, its soils are a combination of loam and red clay. The Pacific Ocean is a mere 15 miles to the west, assuring cool nighttime temperatures required for ultimate development of the fruit.

THE HARVEST

2002 was a wonderful year in Dry Creek Valley. It was a long, moderate summer followed by a warm September. The growing season had especially cool evenings, helping to achieve the natural acidity and well balanced flavors in the grapes.

THE WINEMAKING

The style of this wine emulates that of the northern Rhone Valley of France, a departure from most California Syrahs. The grapes were hand picked and sorted on the day of the harvest, followed by a carefully controlled fermentation and extended maceration. The wine was placed in an assortment of high quality French oak barrels. Only the gentlest handling of the wine was employed from vineyard to bottle, a process Ed considers vital to his standard of quality. This Syrah was made exclusively from grapes grown on the Unti Vineyard and is 100% Syrah.

TASTING NOTES

Deep ruby in color, the wine fills the air with aromas of sweet blackberries, coffee and smoked meat. The palate is delighted by the tastes of wild berries, black pepper and chocolate. The rich texture and silken mouth feel add dimension to a long, sultry finish. Serve with rich, hearty foods such as roasted meats, cassoulet and intensely flavored pastas.

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