



A Tribute to Grace Grenache 2013, Besson Vineyard

Harvest Date: October 19th, 2013

Total Production: 184 cases

Alcohol: 14.1% abv

This is my first vintage from the historic Besson Vineyard, and a most exciting addition to the grace canon. Planted in 1910, the vineyard sits just shy of the Santa Cruz Mountains appellation, on the 'Hecker Pass' linking Santa Cruz to Gilroy.

The vineyard was brought to fame years ago by Randall Grahm's 'Clos de Gilroy', and I was lucky enough to be offered three gracious tons in 2013. Owned and farmed by third generation farmer George Besson Jr, these amazing head-trained vines were planted 103 years before I met them ~ and now look remarkably like wizards. The vines are spaced 8'x6' on a gravelly clay loam soil, and continue to be dry-farmed and organic.

After a 50% whole cluster fermentation, the young wine's profile was such a dramatic shift that I was tempted to begin a 'grandfather series' of grace. After 16 months in neutral barrel however, the electric acidity and very blue nature had softened to violets and something akin to Tom Waits: gracious, gravelly, with a moon-like wisdom that silences all else.

Racked once under the first new moon of 2015, this wine was bottled on Grace's birthday: February 16th, 2015. Grace would have been celebrating 93 graceful years.

Release date: September 9th, 2015