

JOSEPH SWAN VINEYARDS

2916 LAGUNA ROAD, FORESTVILLE, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY.
SONOMA COUNTY, CA 95436 PHONE 707 573 3747 www.SwanWinery.com

2012 Syrah - Great Oak Vineyard - Russian River Valley

THE VINEYARD:

Located at the very top of a hill above the Russian River, north of Forestville. Planted on Franciscan derived soils interspersed with fractured shale and sandstone. This hillside is a slice of tectonic plate that has pushed up and folded over, relatively 100 million years older than the surrounding soil types. The very rocky soils create a low production due to the stress of it being nearly impossible to irrigate and tough for the roots to penetrate the ground beneath, which creates very concentrated flavors in the wine. Due to low crop levels and slightly warmer temperatures than on the valley floor, this is usually our first Syrah we harvest.

WINEMAKING:

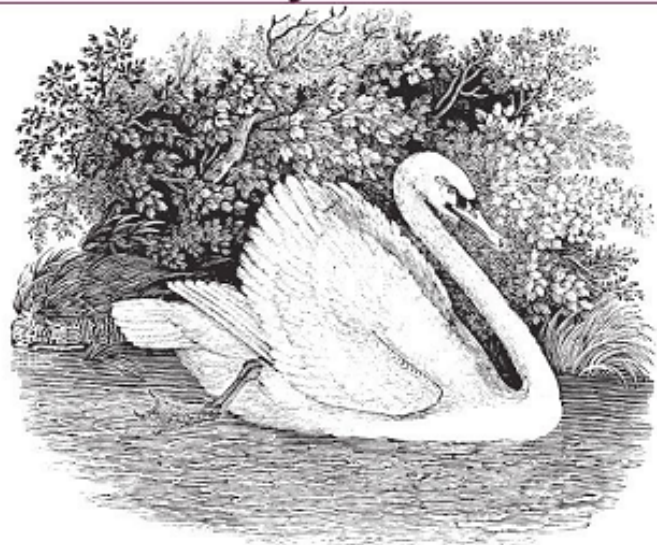
Harvested all at one time, this 100% syrah is destemmed, then fermented in stainless steel open-top fermentation tanks. Punchdowns are done by hand, varying between one to three, and then back to one times per day, dictated by the fermentation speed which occurs naturally in the tank by the yeast that come in on the skins of the grapes from the vineyard. Once fermentation has slowed to the point that the cap falls, we pressed and let settle in tank overnight to let the heavy sediment fall out, then racked to all neutral French oak barrels. Full malolactic fermentation also occurred naturally. Racked once, after malo has finished, then aged for a total of 18 months before bottling. Then aged in bottle for six years before we felt it was ready to release.

THE WINE:

Dark. Very dark. Dense but vibrant. Plums, saddle leather, bacon, lavender. Long. These are our first impressions. Sometimes first impressions are the best! 225 cases produced.

2012
Great Oak Vineyard
Russian River Valley • Sonoma County

Syrah



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