

2022 GRENACHE TAMURA VINEYARD

Joey Tamura's Grenache always surprises me in the cellar. During fermentation this is one of the most luscious and fruity wines, just walking by the tank or bins you're treated to heady aromas of tropical fruits, like a big glass of Hawaiian punch. Over time as the wine develops in the barrel those bright red guava-cherry notes shift down into rich darker fruits, no less intense but more focused. The irregular grippy tannins smooth out and blend with the wine. It's just a fun wine to work with and one of our favorites to watch progress in the cellar.

2022 was another great vintage from Joey's field. Longer hang time for the Grenache yielded more depth of fruit and aromatics. In the cellar, we were very careful to limit movements retaining the delicate aromatics.

On the nose, you'll find vibrant aromas of ripe strawberry and tart plum, complemented by hints of subtle herbaceous notes. The palate unfolds with bright fruit flavors and gentle tannins that are accented by nuances of vanilla, leading to a complex and satisfying finish.

WINE INFORMATION

PRODUCTION: 190 cases

BARREL AGING: 18 months in 40% new French Oak Barrels

HARVEST BRIX: 26° | PH: 3.77

ALCOHOL: 15.2% | TA: 4.9 g/l

RELEASE DATE: 8/8/24 | R.S.: 1.7 g/l

BLEND: 100% Grenache

ESTIMATED CELLARING POTENTIAL, YEARS:

1 ---+---5---+---10

2021 SYRAH ESTATE VINEYARD + LODI

Learning to manage this older head pruned Syrah vineyard was an interesting experience. We experimented with more aggressive pruning, shoot thinning and modifying irrigation. No matter what we did, the vines only produced a handful (less than 2 tons per acre) of intense and small clusters of fruit.

In 2021 was a fairly balanced ripening season. We went through the field two times picking first for rosé then finishing up the field with a riper picking for this wine. After gently destemming we fermented in small macro bins over the course of 7 days before pressing to barrel.

A harmonious blend of ripe blueberry and baking spice on the nose, is beautifully accompanied by inviting notes of blackberry, pie crust, and subtle spice on the palate. A rich and velvety texture envelopes the senses, leaving you with a smooth and savory finish.

WINE INFORMATION

PRODUCTION: 216 cases

BARREL AGING: 18 months in 33% Medium and Medium Plus French & American Oak

HARVEST BRIX: 26.5° | PH: 3.88

ALCOHOL: 15.7% | TA: 6.2 g/l

RELEASE DATE: 8/8/24 | R.S.: 1.9 g/l

BLEND: 89% Syrah, 11% Grenache

ESTIMATED CELLARING POTENTIAL, YEARS:

1 ---+---5---+---10

2021 TEMPRANILLO SPENCER VINEYARD + AMADOR

Tempranillo has become one of our more popular releases over the years and we love utilizing it in blends, but also love showcasing it as a stand alone varietal. This Spanish varietal is known for big velvety tannins and silky soft fruit and can pair easily with robust flavored foods.

The mix of Tempranillo clones in the vineyard surpasses most other fields that I've worked with and the resulting wine is a limited treat that is always worth the wait. At harvest, we put emphasis on lightly handling the Tempranillo in the cellar with gentle punch downs in bin so we would not extract harsh tannins but still be able to coax it into a deeply colored and aromatic wine.

On the nose, robust aromas of dark plum and blueberry are complemented by hints of dried fruit. The palate is greeted with intense flavors of chocolate covered cherry and vanilla that elegantly complement the fruit forward characteristics.

WINE INFORMATION

PRODUCTION: 221 cases

BARREL AGING: 18 months in American Oak

HARVEST BRIX: 28.5° | PH: 3.65

ALCOHOL: 16% | TA: 5.4 g/l

RELEASE DATE: 8/8/24 | R.S.: 1.8 g/l

BLEND: 100% Tempranillo

ESTIMATED CELLARING POTENTIAL, YEARS:

1 ---+---5---+---10

2022 SANGIOVESE COSI BELLA VINEYARD

Sangiovese is one of my very favorite wines not only to make but also to drink. To my palate there is a refined awkwardness, this balance of both irregular sandy tannins and plush velvety fruit. The fruit profiles tend to meander between soft forward fruit and some subtle leather/cedar notes that make the varietal an ultimate food pairing choice.

2022 was the ripest vintage I've made from Cosi Bella, the grapes arrived at the winery kissing 28.5 brix and fermented nicely, but longer than typical. This very ripe fruit yielded a textured wine laden with dark fruit and big tannins that is expressive.

Captivating aromas of ripe cherry intertwined with subtle notes of luscious dark chocolate. The palate reveals lively flavors of raspberry and mixed berry pie complimented with hints of sweet tobacco. A bright acidity is balanced with a touch of black pepper creating a lasting and memorable finish.

WINE INFORMATION

PRODUCTION: 239 cases

BARREL AGING: 18 months in French Oak

HARVEST BRIX: 28.5° | PH: 3.76

ALCOHOL: 16% | TA: 6.9 g/l

RELEASE DATE: 8/8/24 | R.S.: 2.1 g/l

BLEND: 100% Sangiovese

ESTIMATED CELLARING POTENTIAL, YEARS:

1 ---+---5---+---10

2022 SANGIOVESE COSI BELLA VINEYARD

The Cosi Bella Vineyard was a regular feature for more than a few of our first years of winemaking. Then the property was sold and the vineyard took a back seat to the new owners other priorities for a number of years. The fruit quality suffered and unfortunately I had to move on from our beautiful Cosi Bella Sangiovese.

Fast forward to 2019 and a local farm manager, David Ceja stepped in, leased the field and began to give the older vines the care that they deserve. This is our 2nd year of production back in the field and we're really excited to see how quickly this awesome little patch of a vineyard has rebounded! Planted in a vertical cordon training, the fruit zone is beautifully open to dappled sun helping to reinforce the bold tannin and fruit unique to this location.

2021 TEMPRANILLO SPENCER VINEYARD + AMADOR

The Spencer vineyard is of the first vineyards we worked with back in 2010 when we opened. Our late friend, Tim Spencer, had the foresight to plant Portuguese and Spanish varietals in Amador County in the early 80's. In later years, I began working with Stuart Spencer, who was quick to extend a helping hand to our minuscule and cash strapped winery and it's been a great relationship ever since.

The Spencer vineyard is a 43 acre vineyard nestled in the Jackson Valley at the western edge of Amador County. This distinct vineyard site takes advantage of 500 acres of neighboring irrigated pasture and five lakes that surround the region. The resulting moderate temperatures are further cooled by nighttime air spilling down the Sierras and becoming trapped in this quaint valley. Soils are well drained, alluvial, fine sandy loam soils that produce well-structured wines with good acidity levels.

2021 SYRAH ESTATE VINEYARD + LODI

Back in 2019, Choral and I purchased a vineyard perched up on the edge of the Mokelumne river with plans to build our future winery at that location. Fast forward through design, planning and the pandemic, the costs of building became prohibitive. In the mean time, we stumbled upon our current winery in Lockeford and the match was made. With a facility and vineyard onsite, we made the decision to sell our river vineyard in 2021. The lightly producing head pruned vineyard was bulldozed later that year marking this as the last vintage from our estate river property.

From an unknown clone of Syrah (I was told Shiraz), these vines were planted about 20 years ago and unusually head trained. At almost double the size of their Zinfandel neighbors, the production was almost laughably minuscule at just under 2 tons per acre.

2021 GRENACHE TAMURA VINEYARD

Getting started as a small winery was tough without many connections to the local grower community. Just finding out who is growing what varietals was a challenge. Joey Tamura was one of the growers I met early on through the Costa's and we immediately clicked. Not only is Joey a meticulous grower, but he's great to work with and consistently strives to get us the best possible quality fruit.

The Grenache vineyard is located behind his house in Lodi. Most of what is harvested primarily goes to a much larger winery, but we are able to pick from a few rows that get considerably more attention. These vines are leaf pulled for more sun exposure, then green thinned to remove all of the grape clusters that are stacked on each other to further improve sun exposure and airflow. The increased sun helps toughen the skins and encourages the vines to set more tannin and color to the grapes.

VINEYARD INFORMATION

GROWER: David Ceja

ACRES: 7 acres

APPELLATION: Lodi

ELEVATION: 75 ft

AVERAGE HARVEST DATE: Early September

VARIETALS: Sangiovese

VINEYARD INFORMATION

GROWER: Stuart Spencer

ACRES: 43 acres

APPELLATION: Amador County

ELEVATION: 240 ft

AVERAGE HARVEST DATE: Early October

VARIETALS: Tempranillo

VINEYARD INFORMATION

GROWER: Jeremy Wine Co.

ACRES: 5 acres

APPELLATION: Lodi

ELEVATION: 17 ft

AVERAGE HARVEST DATE: Early September

VARIETALS: Syrah

VINEYARD INFORMATION

GROWER: Joey Tamura

ACRES: 10 acres

APPELLATION: Lodi

ELEVATION: 50 ft

AVERAGE HARVEST DATE: Late September

VARIETALS: Grenache